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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THERE is no one question just now which can claim the dignity of treatment to the exclusion of all others; so—*more nostro*—we discourse on the general questions which, among them, interest the country. The fact is, that in the dregs of a long Parliament, and at the close of an exciting war, the world is content to take things easy. Debates have little sap and strength in them—the peculiar points of our leading debates have got stale by frequent repetition; and we shall have to wait for a new Parliament before we find the country very eager about political affairs.

Somehow, when a session is only a week old—so great is the sameness of Parliamentary proceedings—people begin to tire of the business. The hacknied indignation of last year is served up again, and met by the same jaunty mixture of denial and retort. A's eloquence is stale, and B's anger an old story. The world separates the A. or B. of public life from the A. or B. of the general world; and looks on him as an actor at Westminster whose part is to be viewed indulgently, as being assumed professionally. At least, some such feeling as this can alone account for the apathy with which the public looks on the combinations and rumours of combinations—the threats without results, and promises without performance—which regularly open the campaign every spring. Full a third of the popularity of the war lay in this, that while the patriotism which filled debates seemed so common, cheap, and profitless, the patriotism which incurred wounds was real, fresh, and dramatic. And now that the war is over, it will be harder than ever for a Parliament to interest people, which does not apply itself to popular measures with as little of the old sing-song Parliamentary manner as ever. The masks and buskins which everybody assumes when he gets on that public stage weary the spectator now. It is harder and harder, every year, to get up any enthusiasm for the regular routine of the session. And this feeling—a feeling which makes people indifferent to everything but the nett results of work—is favourable to dictatorships like Lord Palmerston's; and, as it strengthens, will have the effect of making practised, dexterous, administrative men supreme without much regard to their character or principles.

Apply these ideas to the common subjects of talk. The supposed "fusion" between Gladstone and Disraeli opens many points of interest; but what is the great one with the general public?

It is, what will they be able to do about the Income-tax? All the rest is a question for private enthusiasts, like the relative merits of the Stuarts and the Guelphs; and let Palmerston take care of the "ninpence"—to abolish it, and he is safe enough. Now, while showing how this matter-of-fact view is natural just now, and believing that it has its irresistible part to play, we are far from thinking that it can afford a sufficient inspiration to a great country permanently. Indeed, its prevalence was pretty directly connected with some of the worst failings in the conduct of the war. What is wanted in Government, is a business-like policy, with ideas to prompt it of a character beyond business ones. The defect of the Premier (and the Premier's character is that of his Government) is his want of higher inpi-

ration than can be found in Parliamentary dexterity and sharp management. He is capital at manœuvring with a diplomatic difficulty. But he has no great schemes for the amelioration of England,—such as engage the minds of the Arnolds and the Chalmerses—men who, without being statesmen, feed statesmen's hearts. All one can say of him is, that he is never without an answer. His policy is accommodation, and his eloquence repartee. Now, both Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, besides their attainments as men of political experience, have a share in the elements which Lord Palmerston needs. Neither is so neat, ready, and handy—neither has had the advantage of being bred under the régime of the great men of the Waterloo generation; but the views of one have moral elevation, and those of the other historical breadth, such as cannot be claimed for the brilliant Viscount. Surely, it is not only the knowing element in society, and the prosaic element in the

tion, &c., as to regulate its expenditure. We hope Sir Cornewall Lewis, who knows all about the Romans, does not mean to imitate that well-known Roman Emperor, who, being reproached with certain low details of his taxation, held out a handful of the money, and asked, "Does it smell?" We assure him, that, in the case of the income-tax, it *does* smell. Of course, it is what the "Saturday Review" calls a "sentimental distinction," to advance the old plea that there ought to be a difference made between certain and precarious incomes. But has sentiment nothing to do with politics?—and if you press hard on struggling tax-payers, do you not cripple them in their efforts to rise to a more profitable status, and so kill your goose for his golden egg?

There are not wanting satisfactory signs of a real effort to abolish this impost, nor of (what would be a cognate achievement) an early termination of the Persian war. At the same time, strange to say,

we are at peace with the Continent; and unless our diplomatists look sharp, and quarrel with somebody about the Principalities, we shall be in the ignoble position of being tranquilly related to all Europe! We hope some good fortune in this matter, and an era of peace unbroken, unless when some Power attempts an invasion of its neighbour. Eighteen hundred and forty-eight had one good effect,—it has urged on potentates everywhere the necessity of justifying their rule by attempting measures of internal improvement. The Emperor of Austria, we see, courts popularity in Lombardy, as eagerly as old Louis Philippe in his umbrella and "Jemappes and Valmy" days; and did not Mr. Caird tell us lately that railways and banks are everywhere the fashion among despots? Besides, our democratic friends in England should remember that these German tyrants are constantly taking governing men out of the clever fellows of the Universities, without the smallest reference as to what money they have, or who their grandfathers were; which is surely a democratic measure, as far as it goes? . . . If, in short, the European states will learn from each other, instead of quarrelling with each other, it will benefit them in freedom, and in everything else, far more than the present absurd system of querulous criticism and personal recrimination.

One or two personal questions demand a paragraph, and we have done. We have seen with great regret several complaints that the Court is no longer the seat of that free magnificence in matters of hospitality and payment,

which so emphatically marked the old Courts of Europe, and which is so important an element in its claims on popular regard and affection. We hope never to see an English prince going,

" . . . When summer suns prevail,
To enjoy the freshness of his kitchen's gale;
Where, unpolluted by luxurious heat,
Its large expanse affords a cool retreat;"

or shabbily remunerating the poor fellow who ministers to the amusements of a Royal household. But enough of this delicate topic. By way of changing it, let us say that we do hope to see the Parliament of England recognising the claims of M'Neill and Tulloch to the gratitude which Government had not the heart to show.



THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

country, which ought to be represented in a Government like that of England!

But, we repeat, the *present* interest in any such political move as the possible union of two separate though not discordant parties, lies in the fact, that it may help us to a special point—the income-tax removal. There is a notion that the first person to consult is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that the public is only a secondary character; but it rather appears to us that it lies with the public to show that a tax is peculiarly grievous and intolerable, and that it is the Chancellor's "own look out" (to use a vulgar phrase) how he shall supply its place. The public is taxed for its own benefit, and, indeed, has the same moral right to regulate its kind of taxa-

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

On the evening of that day when the amnesty, with which the Emperor of Austria has signalled his visit to Italy, was proclaimed in Milan, the Great Square before the imperial residence presented a scene of the utmost excitement and enthusiasm. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th ult., that the placards announcing the amnesty were posted, and an hour later eight or ten thousand persons had assembled before the palace. As it was known that the Emperor and Empress were then at dinner, the crowd for a time remained comparatively quiet, but towards six o'clock the cry of "Evviva" was so tremendously loud and long, that the German Cesar had no choice but to walk on to the balcony. After he had three several times appeared, the people called loudly for the Empress, but a message being sent down that she was not very well, the gallant Italians speedily changed their cry of "Long live to the Empress" to "Ah! poor lady, she must take care of herself." Among those imperial personages who, in Europe, play with more or less success the strange fascinating game of despotism, not the least interesting are the young Emperor of Austria and his beautiful spouse.

When the Emperor Francis (the father-in-law of the great Napoleon) died in 1835, after an eventful reign of forty-three years, he left his dominions and his son Ferdinand under the auspices of the profound Metternich. During the revolutionary epoch of 1848, Ferdinand abdicated, and his brother, the Archduke Francis Charles, stood next in the order of legal succession. The Archduke, however, declining to accept a crown encompassed by so many dangers, it came to his son, who assumed the title of Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary. The Emperor was born on the 18th of August, 1830, and was therefore still in his teens when thus placed on the throne. He began his reign with fair promises, and pledged himself in the most solemn manner to give freedom and constitutional government to the country. "We are convinced," he said in his first proclamation, "of the necessity and value of free institutions, and enter with confidence on the path of a prosperous reformation of the monarchy. On the basis of true liberty, on the basis of the equality of the rights of all our people, and the equality of all citizens before the law, and on the basis of their equal participation in the representation and legislation, the country will rise to its ancient grandeur, and will become a hall to shelter the many nations united under the sceptre of our fathers." Such were the new Sovereign's promises. We will just see what have been his performances.

The first act of the young Emperor was to close the National Representative Assembly met at Kremsier; the second to cancel the ancient constitution of Hungary, and promulgate a charter, which no attempt was made to realise, and which, in 1851, was withdrawn. While the aid of the Czar Nicholas enabled him to overwhelm the Hungarians, Radetsky secured for him the submission of the Lombard and Venetian territories; and having thus gained internal peace and freedom of action, the Emperor, in September, 1851, promulgated the "Edicts of Schonbrunn," in which he declared his Ministers responsible to no political authority but the throne. He added, "The cabinet must swear unconditional fidelity, as also the engagement to fulfil all my ordinances and evolutions. Its duty will be to carry out my will concerning all laws and administrative acts, whether considered necessary by the Ministers or originating with me." In the exercise of autocratic power thus asserted, so soon after a revolution, by a Prince who had barely attained his majority, edict after edict was issued, and the constitution was entirely subverted. The principle of equality before the law was all that remained of the Imperial promises.

Having destroyed the remaining power of the aristocracy, and at the same time propitiated as well as benefited the mass of the population, the Emperor, by a series of organic regulations, centralised the government of the heterogeneous state in Vienna, and with the aid of new men, such as Dr. Bach and Herr Von Bruck, carried out a series of fiscal and commercial reforms, which appeal to the interests of the middle classes. The minister under whose advice the young Emperor entered upon the bold policy of making his own party, and of establishing his power by consulting the equalising passions of democracy, was the late Prince Schwarzenberg. This statesman died suddenly in April, 1852, in mid-career; and Count Buol succeeded to his station, but only to a portion of his power. In boldly meeting the earlier trials of his reign, Francis Joseph acquired the consciousness of strength, and soon claimed a larger and more direct participation in the government. His foreign policy secured him a degree of consideration among the States of Europe, such as a few years before would have been deemed chimerical in the prediction. He broke up the plans of Prussia by a military demonstration, while yet the cloud of Russian intervention hung over Austria, and astonished the Cabinet of Berlin by the apparition of an Austrian army on the Elbe. At Olmütz, in 1853, his political friendship was courted by the Czar Nicholas I., who, four years before, had saved his empire; but in the following year, by coquetting with the Western alliance against Russia, he displayed towards the same potentate that "immense ingratitude," without which, according to Prince Schwarzenberg, the independence of the empire could never be vindicated.

Soon after Francis Joseph had been seated on the throne of his grand-sire, his watchful relatives recognised the expediency of looking around for a fair being worthy of figuring as Empress of Austria. Their choice fell on a Princess of the House of Wittelsbach, between which and that of Hapsburg many alliances had been formed. Elizabeth-Amélie-Eugénie, the destined bride, was cousin, on the mother's side, of the King of Bavaria; she was also related to that monarch through her father, the Duke Maximilian Joseph, renowned as a traveller and as the author of several German songs. She had been carefully educated, had profited much by the instruction she received, was particularly accomplished in painting and music, and enjoyed the reputation of inheriting much of the poetic organisation of her family. Let us add that she was in her seventeenth year, and still more beautiful than young, and our readers will be able to form some idea of the Bavarian Princess, who, on the 24th of April, 1854, became Empress of Austria, and who has just been accompanying her husband in a progress through his Italian dominions.

"The Empress," says a letter from Milan, "is as beautiful as Raphael's Virgin, and as mute." She does not speak Italian, though she took lessons from M. Bolza during a long time. She speaks but little French. She listens, she looks on, and remains impassive to the compliments addressed to her on all sides. The presents made her she hands to her chamberlain without a smile or without a word of thanks. It appears that she lives solely in the love of her husband, who, on his part, appears to be passionately attached to her."

The Emperor and Empress, it appears, are expected in the Austrian capital on the 18th inst. We observe that the clemency of the Emperor to the inhabitants of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom has produced a less favourable impression in other parts of the empire than might have been expected. The Roman Catholic hierarchy and some of the most influential Austrian generals aver that a general amnesty is neither more nor less than "an encouragement to revolution;" and the Germans, Bohemians, and Hungarians affirm that if the Emperor were to show but half as much kindness and condescension to them as he has recently done to his Italian subjects, he would never again have reason to complain of their political conduct. Under such circumstances, we can readily credit the rumour which asserts that Francis Joseph has decided on a general and unconditional amnesty to all political offenders in his empire. Experience and observation must teach even a Hapsburg prince the truth of the remark made by our great philosophic historian, that all governments, however despotic, must ultimately rest their claims on public opinion.

NAPOLEON III. AND THE PRINCIPALITIES.—The "Moniteur" has published a kind of manifesto of Imperial opinion on the future of the Danubian Principalities. The Government of the Emperor, desirous to secure the independence of the Ottoman empire, and to improve the condition of the Christian populations dependent on the suzerainty of the Sultan, is of opinion that the union of Moldavia and Wallachia is the "combination best suited to assure to Moldavia and Wallachia the strength and consistency necessary to make them on that side a useful bulwark for the independence of the Ottoman territory. The Government of the Emperor had, then, from the very first, clearly expressed its view of this important question. It has not ceased to profess it; and the exchange of communications which took place recently between it and the Cabinets which entertain a different opinion as regards the measures to be taken at Constantinople for the convocation of the Divans, has only strengthened its convictions." And the French Government does not despair of seeing those convictions prevail in the councils of the Powers.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A TRIAL of twenty-six members of a secret society, terminated in the acquittal of eleven of the accused, and the conviction of the rest. One man is sentenced to four years' imprisonment, two to three years, one to two years, four to a year's imprisonment, and six to six months'. Fines of from 200 to 1000*fr.* are superadded. The proceedings are not allowed to be reported.

The French journals hint that the present aspect of the Neuchâtel affair is not so pleasant as might have been expected. In other words, the King of Prussia quibbles.

The *Nemesis* frigate, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Rigault de Genouilly, sailed from Brest on the 4th for China.

The ceremony of the reception of the distinguished *savant* M. Biot into the French Academy took place recently. M. Biot is the successor of the historian, M. de Lacretelle, recently deceased. M. Guizot pronounced the customary oration.

SPAIN.

THE discovery of a Democratic conspiracy at Barcelona is confirmed. The conspirators were just about to cause an insurrection to break out when they were detected by the authorities.

The journals announce that the Queen, desirous to economise the public resources, has definitively given up the project of a tour in Andalusia.

The trial of M. Escosura, ex-minister of the interior, for publishing articles offensive to the Queen in the "Presse" of Paris, was, at last, advised, about to take place. It was said that the public prosecutor intended to demand that he should be condemned to several years' imprisonment, to civil interdiction, to the loss of honours, to the deprivation of political rights, and to a heavy fine.

AUSTRIA.

THE Emperor and Empress of Austria were expected at Trieste on the 14th, and at Vienna on the 18th inst. It is stated that the journey of the Court to Hungary will take place as soon as the preparations for the *fetes* ordered at Pesth and at Offen for the reception of their Majesties, shall have been completed. No one in Vienna doubts but that the Emperor will signalise his presence in the capital of Hungary by a general amnesty, similar to that which has been granted in the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. Indeed it has been asserted that the Emperor of Austria has decided on granting a general and unconditional amnesty to all political offenders in the Austrian Empire. Sir Hamilton Seymour has officially congratulated the Cabinet of Vienna on the amnesty declared in the Lombardo-Venetian province.

The relations between Austria and Russia appear to be anything but improving, and the same may be said of Austria and France.

RUSSIA.

THE Russian Government, it is said, has communicated to the English Cabinet a note expressive of Russia's willingness to support the demand of England relative to the evacuation of Herat; but that she cannot approve of other claims, the consequence of which would be to unduly weaken and humiliate Persia, and that she cannot on any condition allow England to obtain the accomplishment of them by force.

"A considerable amount of discussion," says a letter from St. Petersburg, "has taken place during the last few days between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the English Legation, on three important questions—the recall of the English fleet from the Black Sea, the evacuation of Greece, and the Anglo-Persian difficulty. Lord Wodehouse, who displayed much more moderation in these negotiations than was expected, announced to Prince Gortschakoff that the English fleet will have evacuated the Turkish waters by the 30th of March. Prince Gortschakoff declared, in his turn, that Russia was ready to admit English consuls into the Black Sea."

General Count Osten-Sacken, who commanded the troops at Sebastopol towards the end of the siege, has just been, with General Sumarokoff, appointed member of the Committee of the Invalides. It is a sinecure given to veterans who have grown infirm in the service.

The journey of the Emperor, it is now said, will not be confined to visiting the Empress Dowager at Nice, but that he will visit the Emperor of the French in the month of March or April.

ITALY.

It is stated that the Neapolitan Government is anxious to resume friendly relations with England and France; and that the representatives of a great Power at Paris and London have been employed to place the King's proposition regarding the exile of the political prisoners before the Cabinets of St. James's and the Tuileries. Twenty-five persons have been arrested at Messina, and sent off by Royal steamer to the island of Favignana, on the west coast.

Count de Thun, who was *ad latus* to Count Radetsky for civil affairs, will not continue his functions when the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian takes the government, but will resume his diplomatic employment.

The Grand Duke Michael of Russia arrived at Turin on the 5th instant. The Duke was to leave the following day for Genoa, whence he would return to Russia.

It now appears that the Bishop of Matera, whose life was attempted by a priest, ran from the spot, was pursued by the assassin, and caught. A struggle ensued, and they rolled over and over each other, in such a manner, however, that the assassin could not make use of his dagger, and so time was given to the people who followed to secure him.

GREECE.

THE English and French Governments have issued instructions for the withdrawal of their troops from Athens, the object of the occupation being now attained by the compliance of the Greek Government with our demands. The protecting Powers had made certain propositions to King Otho relative to his finances, which were accepted. The Powers further required that the King should change his Ministers and appoint others more disposed towards the Western Governments; this arrangement seems also to have been acceded to. Vessels have left Toulon in order to bring back to France the troops that remain in Greece.

A Commission, to be composed of the resident Ministers of the three protecting Powers—Russia, France, and England—has been appointed to inquire into the state of the Greek finances.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE Porte is about to take official possession of the Delta formed by the mouths of the Danube.

The question of the union of the Principalities is rumoured to be gaining ground, and it is believed that the majority of the Divans will be gained over to it. The Porte, meantime, limits itself to the refusal of a foreign prince as their governor.

The evacuation of Moldavia and Wallachia will be complete by the end of March. The Turkish troops, it is said, will be sent into the Principalities, but they will not pass the Danube until the departure of the Austrians.

The Turkish Government, considering that the decisions of the Hospodars of Moldavia and Wallachia have illegally sentenced a number of citizens of the two Principalities to exile, order that the provinces shall be open for the return of those banished men.

Great works of embankment on the Euphrates are projected. The plans have been sent from London. The Arabs disturb those districts.

AMERICA.

THE Legislature of Pennsylvania has elected a Republican, Mr. Cameron, to the United States Senate, over Mr. Forney, the candidate of the Democratic party, and for whom all Mr. Buchanan's personal and political influence was exerted. Mr. Forney has been a most active partizan for many years, and the right hand of the new President in his political operations.

It is now stated that the Committee of Territories will report a bill cancelling the slave laws of Kansas; that there will be a new election; and that every changed voter will have to take an oath that he is a *bona fide* settler.

A "Northern Revolutionary Convention" was sitting at Worcester, Massachusetts. Its object is avowed to be disunion at once.

Mr. Peabody, the banker, has been lecturing the "drab-coloured" gentlemen of Philadelphia on repudiation, and admonishing them to pay their debts. Mr. Peabody holds, it is understood, 400,000 dollars' worth of these bonds; he "he wished it to be distinctly understood that he was not pleading for his own purse, for he pledged his word that every penny of back interest might receive should be handed as a free gift to some Pennsylvania institution," provided the State paid the said arrears. The monition was received in expressive silence.

The inhabitants of Carson Valley, in the Territory of Utah, have prayed, Congress to relieve them from Mormon oppression and annex them to California. The Committee on Territories have reported against the prayer. But it appears to "the Committee, that some measure of wider scope is necessary to effect a radical cure of the moral and political pestilence which makes Utah the scandal of the American people. Such a measure is now on the Calendar—the bill for the prevention and punishment of polygamy, and there is no legislation more earnestly demanded."

Walker was reported to be in a better condition, and to have 1,200 shelled men at Rivas, well supplied with provisions and ammunition, while at Punta Arenas was a body of nearly 300 men under Colonel Longbridge, who intended to attack the Costa Ricans at Castillo and San Carlos, and retake the river, as soon as he had the means of transportation.

General Harvey, who has for some months been negotiating with the Florida Indians, has taken down the flag of truce, and declared war against them.

Mr. Charles Sumner has accepted his election as senator, but it is doubtful whether his health will allow him to take his seat this session.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

THE Cape is reported tranquil, but a little anxiety is felt among the frontier farmers as to the safety of their crops, since the Caffres have destroyed their own legitimate chances of obtaining food. A letter from the frontier says that Sandilli's people have now commenced ploughing; but that substantially Krelli has succeeded in turning the minds of his people to war, and that the authorities in British Caffaria have been a little duped by the artifice of the Caffres, inasmuch as they have given to these people a good deal of seed-corn to sow, while, instead of being sown, it has been saved for food.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

AFTER the capture of Bushire, the Shah published a declaration of war against England, and despatched reinforcements to the south. On their side the English were expecting reinforcements from Bombay. The fortifications of Bushire having been taken possession of by the English, these latter were preparing to ascend the river Raab to attack the town of Mohammerah, which commands the provinces of Fars and Shiraz.

General Buhlar has been sent to the theatre of war, but he has left Herat and Candahar in a good state of defence.

A great agitation prevailed, at last, in the Province of Ourmilia. There had been a revolt at Maraca. The insurgents had sacked the town. Fifteen English ships were anchored before Bender-Abbas.

"Russia," says the "Augsburg Gazette," "wishes to occupy Mazanderan as well as Maku," in order to protect Persia against the attacks of the Afghans." She (Russia) has collected a great number of troops. A treaty is said to have been concluded between England and the Imam of Muscat. The former have engaged to obtain for the latter the whole of the province of Moghistan.

The official organ of the Persian Court, the "Journal de Teheran," has published a sort of manifesto, which states that "From the commencement of the difference between Persia and England it has never been the intention of his Majesty the Shah to discontinue his friendly relations with the Cabinet of London, or occasion hostilities with that Power. The Persian Government has already several times manifested its good intentions in an official manner. Its line of conduct has been subservient to this aim, as may be seen by its acts. On the one hand, the government gave its ambassador the full power to consult with his Excellency, the English Ambassador at Constantinople, for removing the difference in a way conformable to the dignity and interests of the two governments. Under these circumstances, he expected, from one day to another, to hear the news of the honourable removal of the difference between the two ambassadors, and the return of the friendly relations between the two governments. On the other hand, the Persian Government expressly forbade the authorities at the frontiers to commence hostilities with the English troops. For the same reasons it abstained from making the necessary preparation upon the frontiers even at Bushire. The commander of the English troops in the Persian gulf, without conforming to the established rule of making known the declaration of war to the representatives of the Court of Persia or of at least himself making previous declaration to the Governor-General of the province of Fars, contented himself with writing a letter in very vague terms, which he sent to Bushire and other ports near that place, and which letter was accompanied by a journal relating to the declaration of war by the East India Company. The following day, the commander in question landed his troops, made himself master of the fortress of Bushmani, which was only guarded by a very small number of men. From thence he turned towards Bushire, which he seized without striking a blow, the Persian troops not having received the orders and permission of the Government of the Shah to oppose the English troops."

The brother of the Khan of Khiva has requested him to offer his assistance to Persia.

THE CHINESE WAR.

A LETTER from the Chinese sents, dated the 16th of December, gives some new details relative to the late affair at Canton, showing that the damage sustained by the foreign merchants was not as great as had been stated in the first accounts. It appears that of thirteen quarters, of which Chy-San-Hang, the residence of the Europeans, is composed, five have been destroyed. It was said that of the eighty foreign factories and stores which existed at Canton, only nine, including the British Consulate, escaped the conflagration—this, it states, is an error. Of the eighty establishments, twenty-one have been burnt down. This is a considerable loss, no doubt, but it is much less than that reported.

It appears that there existed at Canton a floating population of from 25,000 to 30,000 thieves and vagabonds—refugees from all parts of China. As soon as the English ships commenced their fire these men, taking advantage of the general alarm, rushed in large bodies into the Chy-San-Hang, and having first pillaged the European stores, set fire to them. The British Admiral, seeing what was going forward, brought two of his ships to bear on the pillagers, and sent some shells among them, which caused them to fly. Unfortunately the shot from the British ships increased the fire lighted by the vagabonds. The captain of the French frigate *Virginie* sent a detachment of 150 men on shore, with four light howitzers to complete the discomfiture of the pillagers, who fled in every direction, leaving a number of their body dead in the streets. The French seamen laboured indefatigably in extinguishing the fire, which they in a great measure accomplished. As to the Chinese town, it suffered horribly, as well by the fire of the English ships as by the native robbers. Of the twelve great factories belonging to the Hong merchants, and which were situated near the Tartar town, nine were destroyed by the first attack. The English merchants interested in those establishments suffered considerably by that disaster. At the latest dates the British Admiral, having occupied the Chinese military positions, had no more opposition to expect, but a new irruption of the thieves and vagabonds was apprehended. A great number of merchants had emigrated to Shanghai, but the 500,000 inhabitants of Canton cannot so easily dispose of themselves.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO CANTON.

A Parliamentary paper was issued on Saturday, containing the whole of the correspondence between the British and Chinese authorities relative to the recent collisions at Canton. It is not easy to gather the precise truth of all the details of the affair from the conflicting statements made on one side and the other; but the facts may be stated very briefly. The

JORCHA ARROW was sailing under a certificate of registry given at Hong Kong, and renewable annually. She is therein said to belong solely to Tong-a-Ming, a Chinese trader of Hong Kong, but the place and date of her construction are not mentioned. Her master's name is Thomas Kennedy, a native of Belfast, who informed Mr. Consul Parkes that he was engaged by Mr. Block, the Danish Consul at Hong Kong, as nominal master of the *Jorcha*, which he had hitherto believed to belong to Mr. Block's comprador, and he supposed the name on the registry to be that of the comprador. Evidence is given on the other hand, showing that the *Jorcha* was really the property of one Suo-a-ching, who obtained registry for her at Hong Kong, through a foreign firm, by which Mr. Block appears to be meant. This vessel was boarded in the Canton river by a mandarin boat, and twelve men, out of her crew of fourteen, were seized, bound, and taken away. Charges of piracy and murder were preferred against them by the Chinese authorities, and three, who were identified, were retained in custody, the others being, after examination, set at liberty. It is not clear that the *Jorcha's* license to carry the British flag held good at the time her crew were apprehended by the Canton police. The period for which it was granted had expired five days; but, according to the master's statement, this was owing to the *Jorcha* being at sea at the time of the expiration. Yeh resisted the demand of Sir J. Bowring for satisfaction, on the ground of the *Arrow* not being British property, and the mandarins in command of the police who boarded her deny that any flag was flying at the time. Kennedy and his crew, however, assert that the British flag was flying until hauled down by the mandarins. Yeh remonstrates against registry being given to Chinese vessels, as likely to lead to confusion; and the ownership and nationality of the *Jorcha* are so doubtful, that the Earl of Clarendon has ordered a strict inquiry to be made into the circumstances under which the certificate of registry was granted. According to the ninth article of the supplementary treaty of 1843, "if lawless natives of China, having committed crimes or offences against their own Government, shall flee to Hong Kong, or to English ships of war, or English merchant ships, for refuge, they shall, if discovered by the English officers, be handed over at once to the Chinese officers for trial and punishment; or, if, before such discovery be made by the English officers, it should be ascertained or suspected by the officers of the Government of China whether such criminals and offenders have fled, a communication shall be made to the proper English officer, in order that the said criminals and offenders may be rigidly searched for, seized, and, on proof or admission of their guilt, delivered up." The infraction of the treaty on the part of the Chinese authorities, therefore, consisted in their arrest of the accused men by their own police, instead of demanding them through the British Consul. Yeh excuses the act on the ground that, according to the mandarins, no flag was displayed on board the *Jorcha*, and as they saw only Chinese (Kennedy not being on board at the time), they were not aware of its being under British protection.

The whole question, therefore, as a point of international law, appears to rest upon the point whether the *Arrow* was under British colours at the time of the arrests. On this point, the evidence is so extremely conflicting that we have only the alternative of branding with wilful and deliberate falsehood either Kennedy or the mandarins. The balance of evidence preponderates in favour of the former, who states that, while standing on the deck of another *Jorcha*, he saw the flag hauled down by one of the mandarins; and this testimony is supported by that of another British seaman, and one or two Chinese.

Count de Courcy, the French representative, expresses to Sir John Bowring his "moral adhesion" to the course taken by the British authorities, and his recognition of the fact that our common interests direct us towards the revision of our treaties with China.

THE FRENCH IN COCHIN CHINA.

A communication from Cochin China mentions, among other interesting facts, that in the month of September last the captain of the French corvette *Catalina* presented a letter to the Cochin Chinese authorities at Touranne. The Mandarins of Touranne, as well as those of Hué, the capital, not only refused to receive the communication, but replied with insolence. They cast the letter into the sea with an expression of contempt. The batteries of Touranne were manned, and preparations were made to attack the *Catalina*. The captain of the corvette thought it better to anticipate the barbarians. He landed some marines and seamen, who, with one shot from a howitzer, burst open the principal gate. They then spiked the cannon, wetted the gunpowder, and returned quietly on board without noticing the musket-shots fired at them. The French spiked sixty brass guns manufactured in the country. The Cochin-Chinese authorities were completely awed by the vigour displayed by the French commander. The mandarins came on board the *Catalina*, and offered the most humble apologies, and demanded pardon of the great Emperor of the French. The *Copricieuse*, in the meantime, arrived to the aid of the *Catalina*, and the letter so contemptuously refused was accepted, and carried to the capital with every mark of respect.

VERGER'S SKULL has afforded an interesting field of investigation for the phrenologists. They report that the assassin had no bump for the arts; that the organs of mimicry and of credulity are strongly developed; there is an absence of veneration and benevolence; while the organs of circumspection, secretiveness, and destruction are large. The bump of courage is weakly developed.

IRELAND.

PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND.—The total (net) amount of loans made for public works in Ireland to the 31st of December, 1855, was £5,809,801, and the total repayments to the Exchequer, to the same date, were £2,676,109. The disbursements of the Commissioners on account of public works or services in the year 1855 appear to have amounted to £317,810, and the balances on the 31st of December, 1855, to £36,944.

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP SLATTERY.—Dr. Slattery, titular archbishop of Thules, expired on Friday week, after a long illness. He had reached the patriarchal age of eighty years. His Grace was Professor of Logic in Carlow College previous to his obtaining a parish in the archdiocese of Cashel in 1815. He was subsequently removed from the missionary duties of a parish priest to the more arduous and important ones of President of Maynooth College, in which office he succeeded the late Most Rev. Dr. Crolly, and continued until he was raised to the dignity of the mitre. His Grace was consecrated in 1836.

ARREST FOR MURDER.—The Dublin police have arrested two men, named William and Henry M'Lean (brothers), charged with having committed a murder in the county of Carlow, in the early part of last month.

SCOTLAND.

EXECUTION AT LINLITHGOW.—Peter M'Lean was executed at Linlithgow on Monday week. He was so weak as to be unable to walk, and seemed helpless as a child. Whilst being pinioned his sobs were heartrending. He was almost carried up to the scaffold. He had asked leave to say a few words to the crowd, and the request having been complied with, he looked to those around, and, in almost inaudible tones, exhorted them as follows:—"Good people, take a warning by me. Beware of bad company and drink, and keep the Sabbath Day." Here his voice faltered, and the only other words he uttered were an ejaculation to the Lord to have mercy on his soul. To the very last he persisted in his assertion that he was unconscious of having murdered Maxwell, and that the knife with which the deed was committed never belonged to him.

STABBING IN SELF-DEFENCE.—A young man, named John P. Waterston, was recently charged at Edinburgh, with culpable homicide and assault, in so far as, on the morning of the 1st of January, about two o'clock, he assaulted John Christie, a labourer, and stabbed him with a knife in the chest, in consequence of which he immediately expired; as also, stabbed Martin Garrett in the shoulder, to the danger of his life; as also Patrick Smith in the face and arm, and Patrick Murray in the thigh, to the serious injury of their persons. The prisoner pleaded "Not Guilty." It appeared from the evidence that a party of Irish labourers were passing down the Earthen Mound which unites the old and new towns, when they set on the prisoner, who was coming up, and asked him for whisky to keep New Year's morning. The lad was thrown down, as the appearance of his clothing proved, and in a state either of alarm or exasperation, he drew a pretty large pocket-knife, and struck Garrett, Smith, and Murray with it, and was making his escape, when Christie pursued him, on which Waterston turned round and stabbed him near the heart. The unfortunate man died almost on the spot. Waterston at once told the story of his encounter to several friends and also to one of the police-constables he passed on his way home, and the same day he was apprehended. After the preliminary inquiry, he was liberated on bail, until he appeared at court to take his trial. After the full disclosure of the facts of the case, and it being evident that the knife was used in self-defence, the Solicitor-General withdrew the charges, and the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty," amid the cheers of a crowded court.

THE PROVINCES.

A "FAST" YOUNG GIRL.—A girl in the service of a farmer at Stoke Holy Cross, Norfolk, recently absconded with £90 in notes belonging to her master, and, assuming the character and costume of a "fast" young man, travelled twice by rail from London to Edinburgh, laid in a liberal supply of clothes, and purchased several books, including two Church Services! She incurred considerable expense at taverns, smoked a good deal, and enjoyed herself in thorough rollicking fashion. When she was taken into custody, it was found that she had spent nearly all of the £90.

A FATAL EXPLOSION.—At the Whitwood Colliery, near Bailiff Bridge, Low Moor, last week, four persons lost their lives through a lighted fuse, which was being used to explode a charge, having come in contact with some foul air and blown up the landing boards on which they were standing and looking down into the pit. When the bodies were recovered, three of them had their heads severed from their bodies. One of the killed was a proprietor of the pit, who had often been cautioned, but without effect, that the air pipes into the pit were not sufficiently large.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.—Abraham Keeling, aged sixty, resided with a married daughter, named Wakefield, at Headley. On Wednesday week, Mrs. Wakefield had occasion to go out, leaving the old man and a girl, named Tulloch, who occasionally nursed for her, in the house. On her return, she found the old man dead on the floor, with his throat cut, and a razor alongside of him. In the back kitchen, was discovered the body of the poor girl, Esther Tulloch, whose throat was also cut. It appeared evident that Keeling had first murdered her, and then himself.

GROSS OUTRAGE AT CHATHAM.—A violent attack was on Saturday morning made on Mr. Dadd, the postmaster at Chatham, by a party of soldiers. Mr. Dadd, who is much injured, states that he heard a noise in the post-office passage, between twelve and one on Saturday morning. The door was open, and he was standing at the door, which was wide open. He hastened out, and saw a large party of soldiers ill-using a sailor of the Iris. Mr. Dadd interfered to rescue the man, and whilst doing so received a tremendous blow on the head with a heavy stick. The soldiers then forced open the door, with (as it appeared) the intention of getting into the office where the mail bags were, but Mr. Dadd shouted for assistance, and kept them back with a sword, threatening to kill any man who advanced. His cries brought down his family in their night clothes, but the instant they appeared several stones were thrown at them. Mr. Randall, of the Mitre Hotel, next door, hearing the uproar, came, with several other persons, and the soldiers then made good their retreat. Long, the mail driver, in endeavouring to render assistance, received a severe blow on the face with a soldier's waist-belt. Five soldiers of the 87th have been arrested, but the civilians who were engaged in the outrage have not been identified.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION AT MANCHESTER.—A public meeting of the friends of national education was held at Manchester, on Friday week. Letters from Lord Stanley and Mr. Cobden were read; they stated the adherence of those gentlemen to the principles of national education, since neither the church, nor dissent, nor the voluntary principle, had accomplished the degree of education to be desired. Sir J. Pakington addressed the meeting, and explained the principles of the bill he was about to lay before Parliament with regard to the religious aspect of the question. This principle was, that "hereafter there should be no interference with religious freedom, that every school should teach religion according to their particular belief, with only that one great rule, that great indispensable requirement, that no man's conscience should be violated, and that the utmost respect should be paid to the religious scruples of every parent who might send his child to the school." Sir J. R. Shuttleworth also addressed the meeting.

TURN-OUT OF COLLIERIES.—At Silversdale, in North Staffordshire, about 250 colliers have turned out for an advance of wages. They ask for the return of 6d. a day, which was taken off some few months back, when the price of iron was lowered in that district. The turn-outs have held several meetings, and with the men of one colliery arrangements are said to have been made; but the rest refuse to go down into the pits again unless their wages are at once raised, instead of being kept at the present rate until the 1st of next month, as desired by the employers. The price of iron having already risen, the men contend that they ought not to be required to work any longer at the reduction, which is about 3s. a day, instead of 3s. 6d. as before. The "bulky" system of employment, peculiar to Staffordshire, frequently reduces the wages to below these sums.

EDUCATION IN THE MINING DISTRICTS.—Regulations have just been established by the Coal and Iron Masters' Association of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire for awarding prizes in elementary mining schools in those counties, whether under the inspection of government or not, provided they are approved of by a member of the association. The object of the association is to induce parents to keep their children at school longer and more regularly than is at present the custom, and to hold out to them an additional motive to diligence and good conduct.

GEORGE HOLMES AGAIN.—Mr. George Holmes, of the West Riding, burglar, to whose pardon and release from prison, by Sir George Grey, on account of delicate health, the public owes some recent correspondence in the newspapers, and a spirited seaside sketch in "Punch," is again in custody—this time for stealing fowls. We learn with satisfaction that Mr. Holmes is medically certified to be at present "in perfect health."

MELANCHOLY DEATH.—Messrs. J. and J. P. Hall, silk-throsters, of Coggeshall, have repeatedly missed silk for some time past. They at length suspected Hannah Wilson, a woman who had been in their employ for many years; and on her going home to breakfast on Friday morning (the 6th) she was searched, and on her person was found a skein of silk. She was given in charge, and her house was searched, when silk to the value of nearly £10 was found. Her husband, William Wilson, was then apprehended, and having been taken before a magistrate, was remanded. Both prisoners were in Mr. Hall's yard about to be conveyed to Witham, when the male prisoner was observed to stagger and fall; he was immediately raised, but life was found to be extinct. At an inquest subsequently held, it appeared that the deceased had, since his arrest, complained of a pain in his stomach. His wife deposed that he had suffered for some time from diseased heart, which she had no doubt was the cause of his death. Verdict—"Died from natural causes."—We do not hear that a post-mortem examination was made.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

LOSS OF THE RAVENSBOROUGH.—The General Steam Navigation Company's steam-ship Ravensbrough was on her return trip from Antwerp on Sunday evening, when, in coming out of the harbour, a heavy sea caught her bow and threw her against the pier-head. Her bows were stove in. Captain Bacon, finding that the vessel was fast settling down, succeeded in landing the passengers and crew, but failed in his efforts to get the ship ashore before she went down.

WRECK OFF HOLHEAD, AND LOSS OF LIFE.—The ship *Sully*, of Havre, Captain Giron, bound from Bordeaux for Liverpool, was lost about two miles to the back of Holyhead, Island of Anglesea, last week, and out of sixteen all foreigners only two of her crew were saved. The captain and mate were among the drowned.

FATAL BOAT ACCIDENT.—A few days since, the boats used to discharge the cargo from the steamer *Duke of Richmond*, at Wick Bay, having broken from their anchorage and drifted into the breakers, among the boulders, on the north side of the bay, were dashed to pieces, and six out of eight men on board perished within sight of their homes; four of whom have left wives and families in utter destitution. The goods were scattered all over the beach.

FOUNDERING OF THE ANITA STRAMER.—A few years since, a company was formed for the purpose of developing the trade of the Magdalena river and other rivers, and steamers of a peculiar build, in order to navigate the rivers, were sent out. The *Anita* was one of them; she had been out three years, and for some reason the steamers of the company were ordered home to England to be sold. The *Anita*, in company with the *Estrella*, a similar vessel belonging to the company, left Savanilla on the 23rd of December for London. She had not been out to sea more than two hours before it was discovered that she had made a formidable leak, and all the efforts of the officers and crew failed in reducing it. There appears to have been some difficulty in getting out the boats, and the crew had formed a kind of raft that they might take to at the last emergency, for the weather rendered any help from the *Estrella* very doubtful. At length, the water reached the furnaces and boilers, and in about three hours after the leak had been discovered, the ill-fated vessel went down in deep water, carrying with her the chief engineer and eleven others of the crew. Captain Hails, the commander, saved himself by clinging to a cask and oar. He, with the remainder of the crew (eleven), was preserved by the *Estrella*, and landed at Santa Martha. Six of the seamen who perished formed part of the crew of the Royal Mail Steamer *Tay*, which was lost a few months since off Cape Roxoe in the Gulf of Mexico.

LOSS OF THE WATER WYVERN YACHT.—This beautiful vessel, the property of Mr. Stopford, Vice-Commodore of the Royal Western Yacht Club of Ireland, was on her passage round from Dublin to be stationed in Galway Bay for the season. She made the bay on Thursday week, after encountering a succession of heavy gales, and was hove to on Thursday night off Black Head, under a storm trysal and jib, with a fresh gale on at west. On Friday, the 6th inst., she struck on the reef of rocks to the westward of Mutton Island, and became a total wreck.

TOTAL WEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES.—It is shown by American papers recently received, that the grand total value "of real and personal wealth" of the whole of the United States of America, in 1856, amounted to the sum of 11,317,611,972 dollars, or nearly £3,000,000,000. The population at the same time amounted to 26,904,312 souls. The wealthiest States are those of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

PERSIAN NOTES.

RACES NEAR TEHERAN.

At a time when we are engaged in active hostilities with Persia, the antiquities, manners, and customs of that country naturally become matters of some interest to the people of England. The monuments, pilgrimages, and modes of travelling of that ancient land have, it is true, the disadvantage of being somewhat removed from the range of our sympathies. It is far different, however, with the Persian horse-races, the very mention of which suggests to most of us memories—pleasing or the reverse, as it may happen—of Epsom on a Derby Day, or of Doncaster when the St. Leger is to be run, or that historic city on the banks of the Dee when the "Chester Cup" is the event of the week.

The Persian horse, which is taller than the Arabian, has degenerated very little since the days of Cyrus. To an Englishman the great fault of the animal is that it holds its head high, being what the jockeys call an "astronomer;" but it does so to escape the dazzling of the sand, which would soon blind it. It is well known that the ostrich, camel, gazelle, and in fact all animals that exist, whether wild or domestic, in Eastern countries, keep their heads in the air for the same reason.

M. Flanin, in his "Travels in Persia," gives some graphic accounts of horse-races which he witnessed. "On one occasion," he says, "our Meimander, or head driver, having often heard the race-horses of Europe spoken of, was anxious to show us the great superiority of the Persian horses. He had formed the plan of letting us see a race between his own horses, and ridden by his servants, who, with their long black robes tied round their waists, their long black beards, and the high conical and pointed cap with which our readers are no doubt acquainted, looked very different from the tightly-dressed European jockey. Chah-Abbas-Khan had not informed us of the honour intended, until he caused the caravan to be stopped, and we then became aware of what was coming off. When the turf was chosen and measured, and the horses appeared at their posts mounted by their curious jockeys, bets were freely made and taken. At last they started, and we were greatly disappointed in the result, and so evidently was Chah-Abbas-Khan, who confessed that the horses had not run well."

Having said so much for the commoner Persian races, M. Flanin gives an anecdote of a race which took place before the King. "We had not certainly a very high opinion of the Persian horse," he writes "and were very anxious to witness the race. We naturally imagined that these horses were chosen from the very best in the country, but they had been exercised so much in order to bring them down to a racing point, that their bones actually protruded through their skin. The length of the course was twenty-four miles, and in order that the Shah should not have to wait, they had been brought to the starting-post in three divisions, there being but little time allowed between the starting of each. The Royal stand was near the winning-post, to give his Majesty an opportunity of seeing which horse was the winner in each division, but the distance was so great, that the pace of the horses when they passed his Majesty was little better than a hunting gallop. Whatever the Shah may have thought of the race, we did not consider it at all to be compared to a race at Ascot or Chantilly. But these are only bad imitations of European racing. The real racing is the same as it was in the days of Cyrus and Xenophon, which we will now describe.

"The riders have pointed boots and large pointed caps, made of black lamb's skin, with a plume of ostrich feathers; a lance, formed of a long bamboo, and terminating with an iron point, resting upon their shoulder, and in their hand a gun. Some Persians are distinguished by their long robes fastened round their waists, and by their long black vestments. By degrees this mass, at first calm and immovable, separate themselves—some going to the right and others to the left—brandishing their flexible bamboo lances; others using their guns with much skill, separating, galloping round, re-uniting again, with all the skill of accomplished horsemen. Here one might see a Kurd in pursuit of a Persian, menacing him with his lance; there the Persian lying upon his horse to avoid the blow, raising himself in his stirrups and giving the reins to his horse, wheeling round and discharging his gun at his adversary, then making off at full gallop. This is, as Quintus Curtius relates, how the Parthians fought—shooting their arrows from a distance, and then flying. The horsemen crossed themselves continually, darting from each other and re-uniting with astonishing swiftness."

THE PILGRIMS' GATE AT DJEDDA.

Among the most curious spectacles witnessed in Persia are its religious feasts celebrated at the commencement of the new year—the first day of the Moharrem. The Persians call these feasts *Eid Qatl*, the feast of the murder, or, more commonly, *Tazieh*. They are held in memory of Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet, and of his sons Hussein and Hassan, whose tragical end engendered the schism that divides the Mussulmans into Sunnites or followers of Omar, and Chyys or Chyites, followers of Ali. This schism, which has not at all changed, in fact, the doctrine of Mahomet, is based upon the heritage of Ali, as son-in-law, and of Hussein and Hassan, as grandsons of Mahomet, to the detriment of Aboubekhr and of Omar, whom the Persians consider as impostors.

After the death of the Prophet, his father-in-law Aboubekhr, who was also the father-in-law of Omar, seized upon the sovereignty, which he transmitted to his second son-in-law, Ali, who not only had married the daughter of Mahomet, but was also his nephew, demanded the succession in right of blood, but without success. Nevertheless, at the death of Aboubekhr, he attempted to obtain it for his family, and perished in the attempt. He was massacred by the followers of Omar, who were the most numerous. Hussein and Hassan, the two sons of Ali, wished to avenge his death, and obtain by force of arms what had been snatched from the hands of their father; but the first, attacked by Yezid, one of Omar's generals, upon the banks of the Euphrates, near to Kerbelah, lost his life; the other was poisoned.

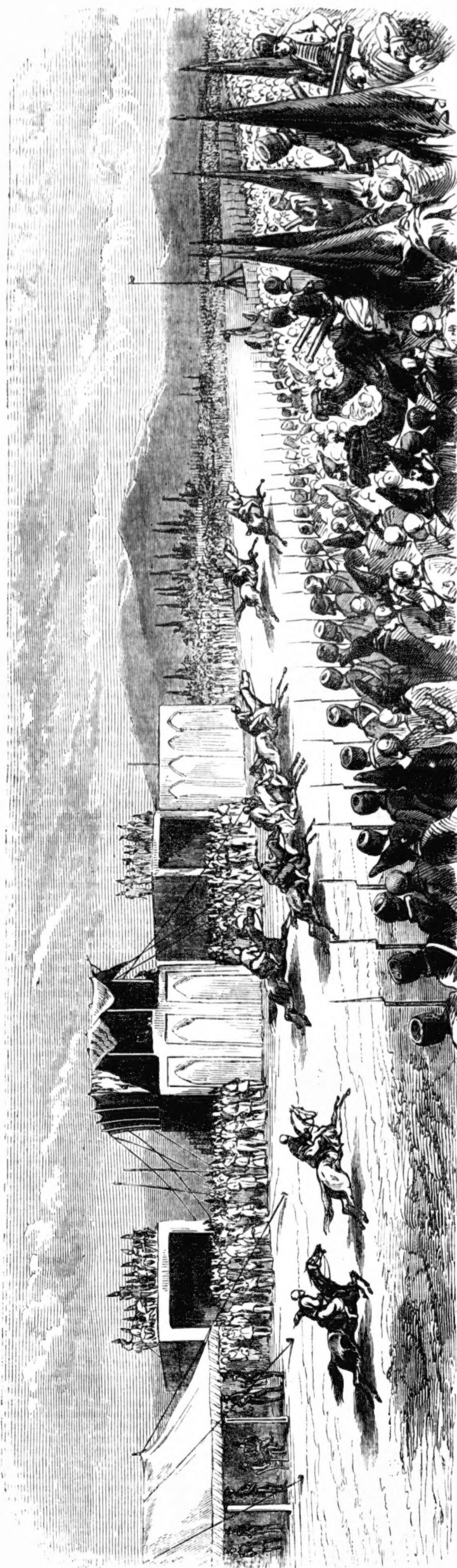
Thus was settled a question, which for more than five hundred years made in Persia a schism in opposition to the Turkish orthodoxy, and caused all the wars to which religious fanaticism lent all the violence of an ardent faith. Notwithstanding these differences of opinion—minor points with the Turks—it does not prevent them from journeying together to Mecca, to pray at the tomb of Mahomet. We have made this the subject of a sketch this week, where Turks and Persians may be seen preparing to set out from Djedda, through the Pilgrims' Gate.

The Persian authorities view these pilgrimages with aught rather than favour, and have often attempted to stem the torrent of pilgrims. But nothing has availed to quench the popular enthusiasm for the memory of martyrs, whose sufferings are renewed, yearly, before the eyes of the people. The difficulties, and even dangers, of the way, seem to invest the expedition with powers of attraction, and enhance the merit of the pilgrimage. In any case, thousands still pour on, in spite of hostile Arabs and exacting Turks.

THE TOMB OF CYRUS.—A CARAVAN.

Persia, in an archaeological point of view, is not what some people suppose it to be. With the exception of the gigantic and magnificent ruins of Persepolis, some vertical columns, a few bas-reliefs carved on the solid rocks, no monuments of a glorious past remain to confirm the traditions of the country. Invasions, time, and the carelessness of men, are not the only causes of this scarcity of monuments anterior to Islamism. The ancient Persians, like the Assyrians their neighbours, and like their direct descendants, were in the habit of using clay bricks, dried in the sun, for the construction of their towns. The recent discoveries of Place and Layard bear testimony to this. A few buildings devoted to the education of the people, the palace of the sovereign, and the tomb which contains his ashes, are scarcely exceptions to the practice. It is this which explains why so little remains to mark the extent of the vast and wealthy cities of Rhages and Ecbatane.

The ruin formerly known in Europe as the "Tomb of Cyrus," although probably subsequent to the Macedonian conquest, is regarded with no ordinary interest in a country where everything was left by man to the cruel



RACES IN THE ENVIRONS OF TEHERAN, PERSIA

ravages of time. Half-way between Shiraz and Isaphan there is an extensive plain of fertile country watered by one of those narrow streams inappreciably called rivers by the Persians. It is the plain of Mourgab, named after what was formerly a town of some importance, but which at the present day is nothing more than a poor village. Several miles south of the tomb stand two or three columns and pillars covered with cuneiform inscriptions; and further on, partly buried in the earth, lies a broken head surrounded with spiral horns, a symbolical ornament which is found in the excavations of Qonound-jiq. Among the inhabitants there is a strange tradition on the subject of this pretended tomb of Cyrus. It is, they say, the tomb of the mother of Solomon, whom they represent as a Jewish monarch, who possessed the power of ruling the elements, and who, according to the Mussulmans, made frequent journeys to the land of Elam. During one of these journeys his mother died; and to testify his love for the people, he left them her venerated remains as a pledge for their future happiness. This tradition is, however, purely local. It is not mentioned in the voluminous commentaries of the Koran; and the inhabitants of Mourgab cannot refer to any authority by way of corroboration.

European erudition affords no more certain data. If the idea that this mo-

nument is the real tomb of Cyrus has been long since exploded, it is less easy to agree on the site occupied by the city of Pasargade, not far from which stood the tomb of the great king. This question, which has been discussed so long in France and Germany, is not yet settled; and the facts furnished by the ancient writers, particularly Arrian, are insufficient to throw any light on the numerous conjectures.

Some men of learning, giving way to exaggerated scruples, have endeavored to fix the *campus ubi Traga fuit* further south, and nearer to the modern town of Tessa. A simple analogy of names will not, however, suffice, in the absence of historical proof, to rob the plain of Mourgab of its most glorious associations. The traveller, who, on leaving Persepolis travels northward, meets with a sufficient number of vestiges of the past to doubt that this solitude was once a rich and fertile province peopled from the capital of Persia. The style of the tomb, which is evidently Greek, would warrant the belief that it was destined for one of the victorious generals, but neither bas-relief nor inscription assists the antiquarian in his researches.

Simple as is this tomb, it is not devoid of grandeur. It is composed of six blocks of limestone superposed in the form of steps, on the top of which

is placed the sarcophagus. The interior of the tomb is used as a chapel, which has become so venerated, that the Mussulmans themselves are not permitted to enter, the women alone are allowed access. There is a Mussulman cemetery round the monument, and within the wall which encloses it fragments of columns are discovered, which are doubtless more ancient than the inscriptions with which they are covered.

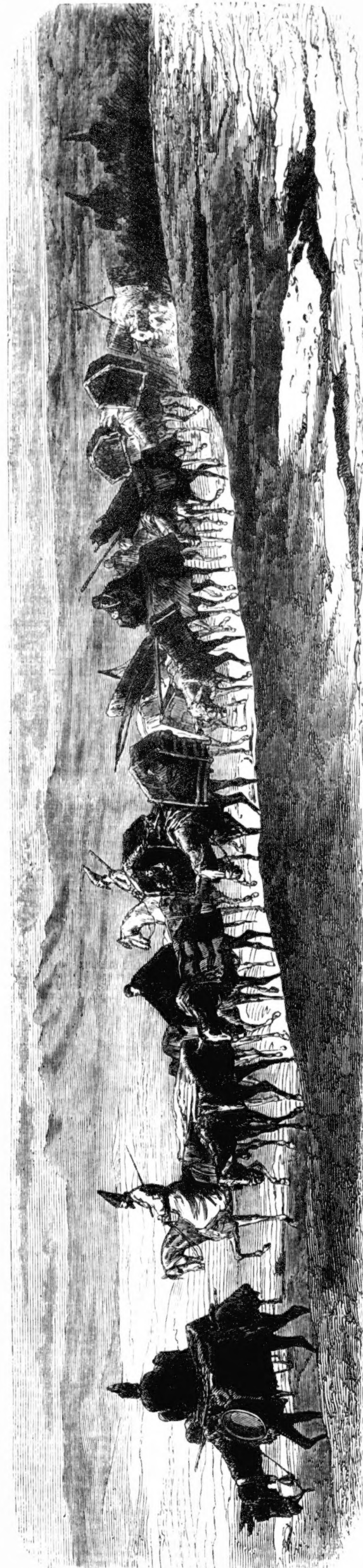
There are only two modes of travelling in Persia: either by *schakar*, or post, or by caravan. The latter, although slow, is the surest of the two. Every year at different periods a long string of mules and camels loaded with merchandise set out from all the large towns. These caravans are generally accompanied by thousands of pilgrims on horses, donkeys, and mules. The Persians are of a wandering disposition, and when obliged to lead a sedentary life, content themselves with living under a tent in the open air. Travelling to them is the *leam ideal* of existence. The long hours of repose during the day, the gentle march of the night, the boundless desert, and the melancholy songs which hasten the steps of the exhausted camels, are to them quite enchanting.

When on the point of leaving Persia to proceed to Constantinople, says one traveller, I received visits from some fifty or sixty Persians, of every

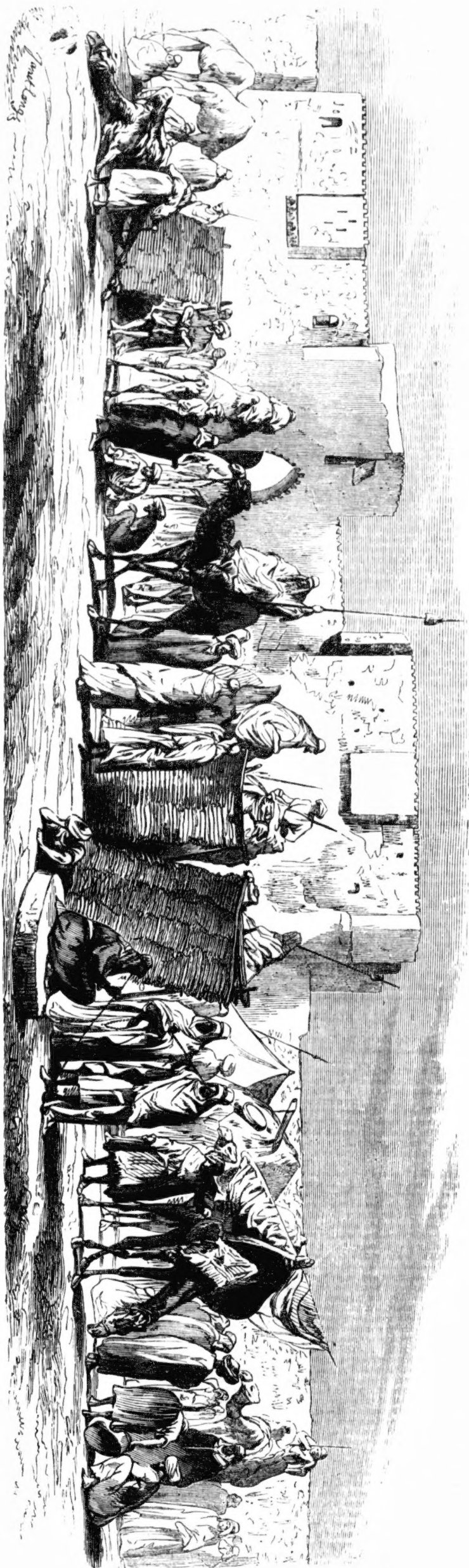
grade, who came to offer themselves as servants, pipe-bearers, &c. They required no wages. The delight of beholding new scenes, they said, would amply repay them. True, they did not speak of the sunny perquisites which every true believer feels he has a right to plunder from his infidel master!

They are soon prepared for the longest journey. They fasten to the saddle a double sack, containing a few garments, their cooking utensils, and the *kaidoun*—the inseparable companion of their existence, the consolation in all their troubles. A mule is laden with a carpet and a sack, containing rice and sour milk. Thus equipped, they could travel during their whole lives, without suffering in the least from fatigue—sleeping during the day, travelling by night, driving sleep off by smoking their perfumed tobacco, or in chanting those plaintive songs which remind one of the old liturgical chants.

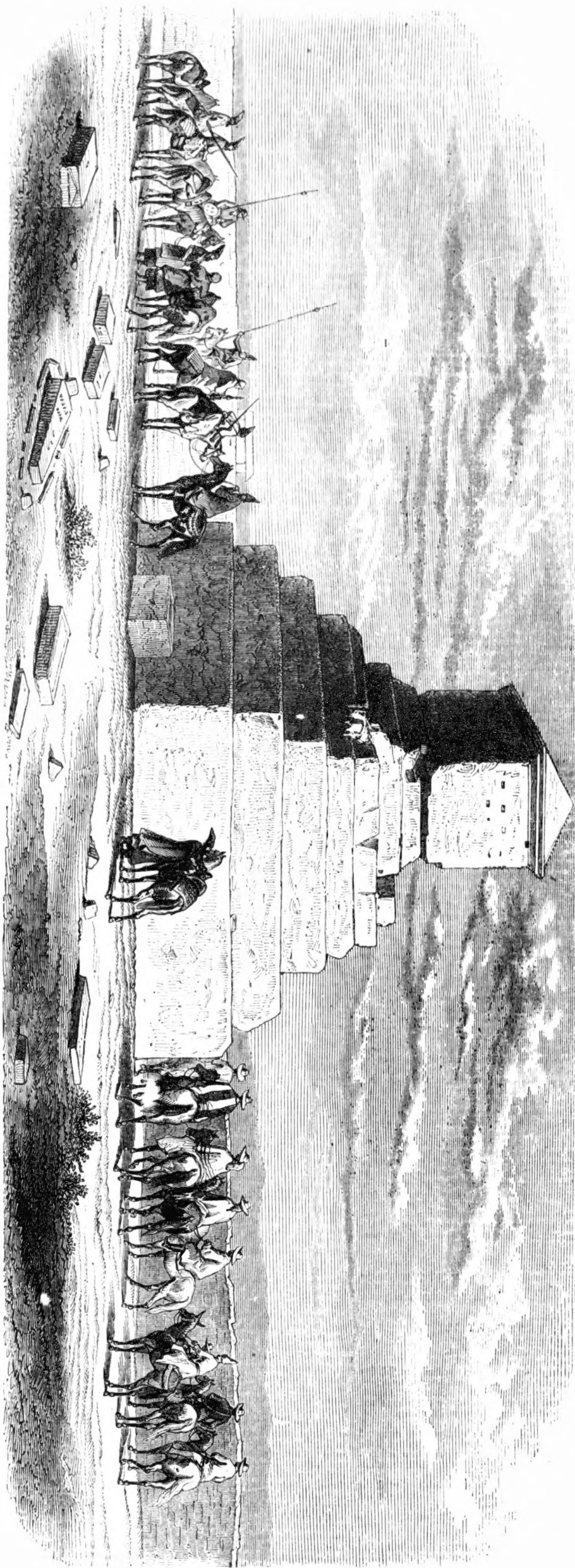
As for the women, they are as carefully veiled on the roads as they are in the towns. A double basket, called *bedjare*, is placed on a mule; these baskets hold two women, provided they sit perfectly still. Very often a screen of red stuff is fixed in front of the basket, so that the travelling harem is secured from the prying eye of the stranger.



A PERSIAN CARAVAN.



THE PILGRIMS' GATE AT DUEDDA, PERSIA.



HALT OF A CAVALCADE AT THE TOMB OF CYRUS, PASAGARDE, PERSIA.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords sat only for a few minutes, during which time no public business of importance was transacted.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CONVOCAION.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE having inquired whether the Government intended to allow the discussions in Convocation to be protracted, Sir G. GREY observed that no proceedings in that assembly possessed any validity without the assent of the Sovereign. If its debates were inconveniently prolonged, and the Primate declined to prorogue its sittings, the Government might think it necessary to interfere.

EXPENSES OF THE PERSIAN WAR.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER announced that the Government intended to propose to repay the East India Company one-half of the extra expense incurred on account of the war with Persia.

SUPPLY.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated, in answer to Mr. M. Gibson, that the estimates for the military and naval services would be laid before the House early next week, and he hoped very shortly to announce the day when he should be able to bring forward the annual budget.

Lord J. RUSSELL complained that the terms of the Address in reply to the Royal Speech pledged the House to an approval of the Persian war. He wished to exonerate himself from any participation in such pledge.

Sir G. GREY admitted that the phraseology of the address might be interpreted into a pledge of approval, but declared that no Member of the House was to be considered bound by it.

The House resolved itself into a committee, and a formal vote granting a supply for the services of the ensuing financial year was agreed to.

THE BANK ACT.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the operation of the Bank Act of 1844, and of the Bank Acts for Ireland and Scotland passed in 1845; and also to inquire into the law relating to joint-stock banks. Observing that the period had returned when the Legislature must decide upon the renewal, with or without modifications, of the Bank Charter, Sir G. LEWIS entered upon a detailed review of the practical consequences which had resulted from the Act of 1844. These, he contended, had proved eminently satisfactory. Since that statute was passed the position of the Bank had been sounder, and the reserve of bullion in its vaults much larger and less fluctuating than before. Under its operation the country had passed through many vicissitudes, social, political, and financial, without suffering any serious collapse of commerce or shock to credit. The Government, he intimated, had no intention to propose any alteration in the Act of 1844, or in the terms upon which the Bank directors held their Charter. Respecting joint-stock banks, he thought that the committee might usefully investigate the state of the law, especially with the view of providing a better winding-up machinery, in cases of insolvency, to supersede the existing system, which recent examples had shown to be extremely unsatisfactory.

Mr. DISRAELI remarked upon the inconvenience of placing two questions so essentially distinct as those of the Bank of England and the joint-stock banks before a single committee. He saw, indeed, little need of the committee at all, since the Government seemed to have made up their minds upon every important point.

Further comments upon the internal mechanism of the Bank of England, and the nature of the influence exercised by that establishment over the supply of capital, the rate of discounts, and paper circulation of the country, were offered by Mr. Tite, Mr. Glyn, Mr. Mahon, Mr. Laing, Sir C. Wood, Mr. Spooner, Mr. Hildyard, and many other Members. The debate was protracted to considerable length, and embraced a multitude of details. Ultimately the motion was agreed to, and the select committee appointed; the inquiry into the joint-stock banks being, by consent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, withdrawn from their investigation.

SHIP DUES.

The House having gone into committee, Mr. LOWE moved for leave to bring in a bill, which he described as a reproduction of the measure introduced last session, to abolish the passing tolls levied upon shipping for the profit of the harbours of Dover, Burlington, Whitby, and Rimsigate.

After a few words from Mr. Deedes, Mr. Rice, Mr. Bass, and other Members, the motion was agreed to.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LAW REFORM.

Lord BROUGHAM brought in a bill, which he described as being intended to put a stop to frivolous suits, and establish courts of reconciliation.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

The Earl of CLARENDON, in reply to Lord Lyndhurst, stated that under the terms of a recent firman the Turkish divans were empowered to discuss the union of the Danubian Principalities, or any other question connected with the future administration of those provinces, in conformity with the ascertained wish of the population. He declined to express any opinion himself on that subject at present, or to lay on the table a copy of the firman, which had, he believed, been communicated confidentially to the Government.

THE CHINESE WAR.

In answer to a series of interpellations from Lord Lyndhurst, the Earl of Derby, the Earl of Ellenborough, and other Peers.

The Earl of CLARENDON promised to produce a variety of returns and correspondence relating to the late proceedings at Canton.

CONDITION OF IRELAND.

A motion for returns respecting some alleged practices of seditious aspect in certain Irish counties led to a prolonged conversation, followed by another miscellaneous discussion touching the postal service in Ireland.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER announced that he intended to bring forward the annual budget on Friday (the 14th).

THE PERSIAN DIFFICULTY.

Mr. V. SMITH stated, in reply to Mr. Jayard, that the Persian Ambassador in Paris was fully empowered to arrange all the questions now in dispute between his own Government and this country.

THE SEARCH FOR FRANKLIN.

Sir C. WOOD stated, in answer to Mr. Roebuck, that no final determination had been arrived at respecting another Arctic expedition, but that if the Government came to the decision that such a step was expedient, they would lay the matter before Parliament, and ask for a vote of money before any preparations were made for fitting out the expedition.

THE CRIMINAL QUESTION.

Sir G. GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the Act 16 and 17 Vic., c. 99, entitled, "An Act to substitute in certain cases other punishment in lieu of transportation." The changes which he proposed to introduce in the present bill were three:—First, to lengthen the term of sentences of penal servitude to an equal duration with that of the periods of transportation for which they were substituted; secondly, giving judges a discretionary power to pass sentences of intermediate severity between those of ordinary imprisonment and the minimum of transportation; thirdly, allowing prisoners sentenced to penal servitude to be removed to certain colonies, a power which, he observed, would be exercised with great caution, but might, he considered, enable the Government to serve the Colonies, and especially West Australia, and to benefit the convicts who might be selected for removal to another sphere; fourthly, he proposed to continue the practice of mitigating sentences as a reward for good conduct in prison, but to restrict the range of their remission within much narrower limits than were now observed, while rendering the discharges, generally speaking, unconditional.

Sir J. PAKINGTON postponed all discussion on the general subject until the Bill was before the House. He commented, however, upon the inconsistency, and as he considered reckless, mode in which the Crown's prerogative of mercy had been extended to convicts under sentence for different crimes, of which he gave several recent instances. It was, he contended, of the utmost importance to remove all uncertainty from the operation of the law as regards the nature and the execution of the sentences passed upon prisoners at their conviction.

Mr. COLLIER recommended that all offenders when again found guilty after two previous convictions, should be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Sir J. RAMSDEN approved of the plan outlined by the Home Secretary, but enlarged upon the necessity of rendering imprisonment more severely penal, and enforcing the principle of separate confinement.

Mr. ADDERLEY exhorted the Government to abrogate the ticket-of-leave system utterly and finally.

Mr. LABOUCHERE rejoined to know that the convict question would be discussed with a strict respect to the interest of the colonies, as well as of the mother country. He doubted whether transportation could any longer be justly considered a deterring punishment. Mere exile was not formidable when voluntarily undergone by so many thousands annually. As an outlet for the best classes of convicts, and a means of completing their reformation, and restoring them to the ranks of self-supporting industrials, the system was highly useful, if it could be found practicable. At present, however, he saw no other locality to which convicts could expediently be sent excepting Western Australia, and stated reasons showing the unfitness for that purpose of Vancouver's Island, the coasts of the Gulf of Carpentaria, or the Falkland Islands, each of which had been recommended by numerous advocates. Even to Western Australia he believed that convicts could be sent only in limited numbers and for a limited time.

Mr. BENTINCK insisted that transportation ought to be altogether abolished. Convicts, he thought, could be more safely kept and better managed in this country, where also their labour might be usefully employed.

Mr. MILNES preferred the plan of the Government, by which transportation, under an improved system, was still retained upon the criminal code.

After some remarks from Mr. Newdegate and Mr. Laddell, and a brief reply from Sir G. Grey, the motion was agreed to.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Sir G. GREY then moved for leave to bring in another bill to facilitate the establishment of reformatory schools in England. The measure, he said, was not intended to interfere with the many excellent institutions of that character already existing, but to extend a principle which had been found to work so well. The provisions of his bill, he added, would be simply permissive in character.

A brief conversation ensued, after which the motion was agreed to, and leave given to bring in the bill.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.—THE LAW OF DIVORCE.

The LORD CHANCELLOR called attention to the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts, and sketched the new machinery he wished to substitute for the existing system in the three branches of testamentary jurisdiction, marriage and divorce and church discipline. He proposed, in the first case, the constitution of a new court, to be called the Queen's Court of Probate, which, except in certain cases, was not to have jurisdiction over real estate, and over which a judge should preside, who would direct issues on matters of fact to be tried by a jury. In this court the proctors would be thrown open to solicitors and barristers. With contentious business would be properly up to £1,500, he proposed that, if uncontested, they should be tried in the Court of Probate in London, the office of Judge being discharged by one of the Vice-Chancellors. Wills which disposed of property below £200, he proposed should be decided on by the County Courts. With regard to divorce, he proposed to allow a woman to obtain a decree of separation from her husband, if he should desert her for three years, and, under certain circumstances, to give her the right of a post-nuptial as well as an ante-nuptial settlement; there were the new features of the bill, the whole clearly seen when the measure was laid on the table. With regard to ecclesiastical discipline, his Lordship proposed, that in the case of doctrinal offences, it was not intended to allow a suit to be promoted voluntarily by any one person, but that proceedings should only be taken after a certificate had been obtained, signed by a certain number of persons of station in the Church. The Lord Chancellor then laid these bills on the table, with the exception of the Clergy Offences Bill.

Lord LYNDHURST thought that the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill would not satisfy the public. It transferred the testamentary jurisdiction to Chancery in substance, though not, perhaps, in terms. So far from being a bill to establish a Court of Probate, it was, on the contrary, one to abolish the Court of Probate, and to adjoint its jurisdiction to the Court of Chancery. The Noble Lord regretted also that the Lord Chancellor had not incorporated in the Divorce Bill a clause to abolish the action for criminal conversation, which was a disgrace to the nation.

The Bishop of Exeter having stated his general approbation of the measures proposed by the Lord Chancellor.

Lord CAMPBELL expressed his dismay at hearing that any married couple, after a temporary disagreement or after improper collusion, might obtain a divorce for all practical purposes except marrying again. With regard to the testamentary jurisdiction, he hoped that the new Court would not be made an adjunct to Chancery, to be thrown into which he knew many persons in the other House of Parliament considered the greatest calamity that could befall a man. With the best intention to support these measures, he felt that the Lord Chancellor was not exactly in the right course at present.

Lord BROUGHAM objected to the proposed Testamentary Bill, because it constituted a new tribunal under an equity judge exercising a common law jurisdiction. He thought that if any new tribunal were to be erected it should be a Court of Probate, presided over by a common law judge.

After some discussion the bills were read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SIR S. M'NEILL AND COLONEL TULLOCH.

Mr. J. EWART having inquired whether it was intended to make any recognition of the services of Sir John M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch.

Lord PALMERSTON said that those functionaries had performed their responsible functions in a manner highly satisfactory to the Crown and creditable to themselves, but it was not intended to deviate from the ordinary practice by bestowing upon them any special honours on account of the services they had rendered.

THE SECRET TREATY.

Mr. DISRAELI, premising that when, eight years ago, he had occasion to refer to a guarantee in the Treaty of Vienna by Great Britain to Prussia of her Saxon provinces, Lord Palmerston had contradicted him, affirming that there was no such guarantee, which was nevertheless found in that treaty,—proceeded to remind the House that on the first night of this session he had referred to a guarantee by France to Austria of her Italian possessions, stating that that guarantee was mentioned in a treaty, and that Lord Palmerston had in the same manner contradicted him. The treaty in question was not in print, but he (Mr. Disraeli) had a moral conviction that he was correct, having had the information from a quarter that could not be mistaken. It had not been his intention to impugn the policy which dictated that treaty; but, assuming the statement he had made to be correct, her Majesty's Ministers were conveying to the House and to Europe that they were pursuing a policy totally different, and there should be a clear understanding upon the subject. The contradiction he had received involved two allegations—first, that his statement was a romance; the second allegation was a derisive hypothesis, that if there was such a treaty Ministers had never seen it or heard of it. With regard to the first, he re-affirmed that engagements were negotiated between France and Austria with the main object of guaranteeing on the part of France the security of the Austro-Italian dominions; that those negotiations were expressed in a written instrument, which assumed the form of a secret treaty, and was executed on the 22nd of September, 1854. As to the second allegation, that, if there be such a treaty, her Majesty's Government had never seen or heard of it, and would not have contented it, he had evidence in his possession proving that her Majesty's Government were privy to the negotiations throughout; and that the treaty was not only executed with the cognizance of the Government, but had been largely and extensively acted upon with their knowledge. He added that if Lord Palmerston would give him from the archives of the Foreign Office the correspondence in December, 1854, and January, 1855, he would prove every title of what he had asserted.

Lord PALMERSTON repeated his denial that any such treaty existed. When hopes were entertained that Austria would take an active part in the late war, there had been an understanding entered into, which was embodied in a convention, by which France promised to abstain from all movements calculated to compromise the integrity of the Austrian empire. This convention, however, so far as the British Government were aware, was never signed, nor did it ever really come into effect, as the contingency for which it was prepared never arose. To denigrate this temporary and incomplete convention a treaty, was, he contended, a confusion of terms; and, as a necessary consequence, all the charges brought against the Government of disingenuousness and ill-faith must fall to the ground.

The subject then dropped.

PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

On the motion of Colonel Dunne, the Select Committee to inquire into the principle adopted for making contracts for the supply of the public departments, and the effect which the present system has upon the expenditure of public money, was re-appointed.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MERSEY CONSERVANCY AND DOCKS BILL.

On the order of the day for the second reading of this bill, Mr. HORSFALL moved as an amendment that it be read a second time this day six months. The bill would greatly interfere with the dock trust of Liverpool, which was a public trust, from which no individual derived any direct benefit. The whole trust was managed gratuitously by members of the corporation and others, selected from the leading merchants and shipowners of the town.

Mr. J. EWART seconded the amendment. Mr. M. GIBSON, in supporting the bill, said it was only intended to carry out the recommendations of the Admiralty, the tidal commission, a Committee of the House of Commons, and the requirements of an Act of Parliament for consolidating the Liverpool and Birkenhead Docks into one great trust. He trusted the House would not refuse to allow the bill to go before a committee.

Mr. LLOYD DAVIES contended that this was a question which affected the commerce of the whole civilized world, and in common justice he thought the House should send the matter for further inquiry to a committee.

After some remarks from Mr. VERNON and Mr. SPOONER, the amendment was withdrawn, and the bill was read a second time.

POOR-LAW.

Sir GEORGE B. PEACHELL moved for copies of all correspondence which had taken place between the Poor-law Board and the local authorities of St. Marylebone and St. Pancras, in relation to the administration of the poor-law; together with any letter or communication that may have been addressed to the Poor-law Board by the churchwarden of St. Marylebone upon the same subject,

or upon the management of the workhouse, or the conduct of the Board of Guardians of that parish. The return was ordered.

JUDGMENTS EXECUTION, ETC., BILL.

This bill was read a second time. At present a creditor having obtained judgment against a debtor in one part of the United Kingdom, is compelled to follow the debtor, should he go to another part of the kingdom, and commence proceedings again. It is to prevent that state of things that this bill is introduced.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

SECONDARY PUNISHMENTS.

The Marquis of SALISBURY moved for the appointment of a select committee to investigate the question of secondary punishments. The Noble Lord entered the necessity of finding some efficient substitute for transportation, and commented upon many deficiencies and anomalies in the present system of prison discipline.

The motion was seconded by the Earl of Carnarvon, but after some remarks by Lord Campbell, Lord Stanley of Alderley, and other Peers, the motion was negatived.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SIR R. PEEL.

Mr. STAFFORD having inquired of Sir R. Peel whether the report of a speech which he was alleged to have delivered at Saltilly, was accurate,

Sir R. PEEL declared himself quite prepared to take the responsibility for every statement contained in that address. Some of his expressions, however, had been misunderstood, and he begged to apologise to sundry individuals whose names were introduced in that speech for any mortification which they might have experienced on that account.

THE SECRET TREATY QUESTION.

Lord PALMERSTON, referring to the Secret Treaty, said he wished to set himself right with Mr. Disraeli on that subject. He (the Premier) had said that the convention was never signed; but, upon further inquiry, he found that it had been signed; but, it being more of a military than of a political character, the object being to regulate the relations of the French and Austrian troops in Italy in the contingency of Austria declaring war against Russia, and Austria never having declared war, the convention, though signed, became a dead letter.

Mr. DISRAELI claimed this admission as concerning the whole issue, declaring that his original version of the transaction was correct in every respect; that the treaty was not only signed, but extensively acted upon; and that there was no limitation of its action.

Lord PALMERSTON (who increased his adversary's triumph by losing his temper) retorted with the observation that Mr. Disraeli had made an ignominious retreat from his original position, and after bringing a solemn charge against the Government had avowed his abandonment of that accusation by parading his accuracy as to some insignificant matter of fact.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Mr. NAPIER moved an address to the Crown, praying her Majesty to take into consideration the formation of a separate and responsible department for the affairs of public justice. Some measure of law reform was, he observed, demanded, both by the existing evils and anomalies of the legal system, and by public opinion. As a first step towards accomplishing this much desired reformation, he advocated the establishment of a special department, under the supervision of a responsible Minister of Public Justice.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Collier. Lord J. RUSSELL supported the proposition for establishing a Minister of Justice, but recommended that the department should be attached to the office of the Home Secretary.

Lord PALMERSTON accepted the resolution as embodying the principle that some departmental arrangements should be made to carry out improvements in the system of law. The motion was agreed to.

THE BANK ACT.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved the nomination of his proposed committee on the Bank Acts, stating reasons for suggesting that it should be made a committee of secrecy. The motion was agreed to.

THE GREAT CITY FORGERIES.

SAWARD and Anderson were finally examined on Wednesday. In the course of the examination, Atwell, the approver, said, that when he talked of "business," he meant forgery; that he himself never forged in his life, though he had uttered forged cheques. He remembered Markham being tried, and knew that he (Markham) was innocent. He was tried with a brother of his (Atwell's), who was guilty.

Henry Salt Hardwicke, the other convict approver, said, that this was the first time he had turned Queen's evidence. "But," he said to Mr. Giffard, who elicited this reply, "if you look at that list you will find the names of eleven men whom your client, Mr. Saward, has transported." (The witness here handed to Mr. Giffard a paper, of which the following is a copy:—"James Allen, life; John Douglas, twenty years; Henry Bradbury, twenty years; Thomas Ford, one year; William Wilkinson, ten years; Nash, ten years; Agar, life; William Hardwicke, ditto; H. Atwell, ditto; J. Anderson, for trial; Markham, four years; the last man, innocent.") This witness further said that when he made his escape from Brecon jail, Saward well knew his innocence; he (Hardwicke) had nothing to do with the burglary which led to his incarceration. He went down to Brecon by Saward's advice, to see that a person named Walter White had proper professional assistance to defend him on a charge of burglary. He was tried and acquitted, and on the road home he stopped at a tree, and took from a hole there the produce of the burglary he had been tried for, consisting of watches and silver plate. He wished to borrow £100 of witness upon it, but he declined to let him have it. He begged hard of witness to show him some place where he could deposit the property, as he did not like to take it to a strange place, and after some persuasion witness allowed him to put it in an iron safe in a warehouse of which he (Hardwicke) held possession. On the following morning, as White was attempting to dispose of a portion of it, he was followed to the warehouse, where the remainder of it was found. Hardwicke was then taken into custody and placed in Brecon jail. Hardwicke further said that he was not in England when Markham was tried; and when he heard that he had been convicted, he wished to raise a subscription of £5 for his wife. He (Hardwicke) reasoned with Saward for not trying to get Markham acquitted; but he was told that that would never do, as he (Saward) might be drawn into it. He knew Saward four-and-twenty years ago, when he was known to be carrying skeleton keys through the City for a gang of burglars when they wanted them for a night. He could not say that he corrupted Saward. This closed the case. The prisoners were committed for trial.

ALICIA RACE.—Vice-Chancellor Kindersley gave judgment on Wednesday morning on the appeal in this case—ordering the child Alicia Race to be restored to the Sailors' Orphan School, and appointing the Rev. Mr. Bickersteth one of her guardians.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The Hon. William Cowper, who had to resign in consequence of his appointment to the Vice-Presidency of the Committee of Privy Council on Education, has been returned for Hertford, unopposed.—Mr. H. W. Schneider has withdrawn his claims to the representation of Hull, and Mr. James Clay is now the only candidate.—One of the Leicester papers publishes a memorandum sent by Sir J. Walsley, and emanating from Mr. E. S. Ellis, an influential member of the constituency, in which he states that he and other prominent electors are determined that Sir Joshua shall not be again returned for Leicester, and suggesting that he should withdraw. Sir Joshua states that he has no intention of withdrawing, and promises to do as his constituents may determine.—The Southampton election has terminated in the return of Mr. Weguelin, by a majority of 31 over Sir E. Butler, and of 251 over Mr. Andrews.—General Sir W. Codrington has been returned for Greenwich, by an overwhelming majority.—Mr. Kennard, the Conservative candidate, has been returned for Newport.—Sir R. Bethel, who vacated his seat (Aylesbury) on being appointed Attorney-General, has been re-elected.

PROPOSED NEW PENAL SETTLEMENT.—A deputation of gentlemen connected with Western Australia recently waited on Mr. Labouchere, and presented a statement, giving reasons to show that Western Australia is "peculiarly adapted for a penal settlement." The reasons are—that the colonists are willing to receive convicts, employ them, and pay them great wages; that the said convicts can not only be employed in producing the necessities of life, but in making roads and bridges; that the climate is fine, and escape, except by sea, impossible, as the natives would bring back all who might seek refuge in the bush; and that Rottnest Island, fourteen miles from Fremantle, is well adapted for refractory convicts.

LIFE AND DEATH STATISTICS.—The quarterly return of the Registrar-General shows that in the last quarter of 1856 the entire number of births registered in England and Wales was 167,615; deaths, 96,521: so that the ascertained natural increase of the population in three months was 61,094. In the same period 39,063 emigrants sailed from the ports of the United Kingdom; of whom it was ascertained that 16,962 were of English origin; and allowing for a proportion of 4,721 persons of unascertained origin, the English emigrants may be set down at 19,211, the Scotch at 2,406, the Irish at 15,467, foreigners at 3,240. It is novel to see that the English emigrants exceed the Irish in number, and that for 5,897 sailing to the United States, a force of 13,198 embarked for the Australian colonies. As 657,704 births and 391,369 deaths were registered in the year 1856, the natural increase of population in England was 266,335. The number of immigrants into England during the year is unknown; the emigrants of English origin amounted to upwards of 70,285. The natural increase of population in the United Kingdom was probably at the rate of 1,000 a day. 391,369 persons died in England and Wales during the year 1856. About 324,000 died by diseases and accidents which are at present almost inevitable.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

THE total income of the United Kingdom for the year ended the 30th of September, 1856, amounted to £71,348,066, and the total expenditure to £83,307,477, leaving a deficit of £11,959,411. The Customs yielded £23,093,300; the Excise, £17,861,777; Stamps, £7,180,941; Taxes, £5,100,026; the Income, or, as it is called, the "Property-tax," £15,940,330; and the Post Office, £2,768,152. As regards the expenditure, £28,625,517 was appropriated to the charge of the public debt; £1,750,331 to the charges on the consolidated fund (including the civil list salaries and courts of justice); and £57,931,638 to the supply services. Of these last the army and ordnance cost the country £28,094,824, a sum equal to the interest of the debt; the navy, £17,608,996; the vote of credit (war with Russia, £1,410,000; miscellaneous civil services, £6,693,172; and the salaries of revenue departments, £4,124,646). The balances of public money in the Exchequer on the 30th of September amounted to £7,084,743. In the year ended the 31st of December last the income was £72,218,988, and the expenditure £82,323,400, leaving a deficit of £10,104,412, or less by £600,000 than at the end of the preceding quarter. The produce of the income-tax for the year was £16,628,421. The balances of public money at the end of the year amounted to the sum total of £6,942,427.

SIAMESE AMAZONS.

THE army of the King of Siam contains a corps which particularly attracts the attention of strangers; this is the battalion of the King's Guard, composed of women. This battalion consists of 400 women, chosen amongst the hand-somest and most robust girls in the country. They receive excellent pay, and their discipline is perfect. They are admitted to serve at the age of thirteen, and are placed in the army of reserve at twenty-five. From that period they no longer serve about the King's person, but are employed to guard the Royal palaces and the Crown lands. On entering the army they make a vow of chastity, for which there is no exemption unless any of them should attract the King's attention and be admitted among his legitimate wives. The King's choice seldom falls on the most beautiful, but on the most skilled in military exercises. The hope of such a reward animates them with extraordinary zeal for military instruction, and Europeans are astonished at the martial appearance of that battalion, as well as its skill in manoeuvring and its excellent discipline.

The costume these women wear is very rich. Their full dress is composed of a white woollen robe, embroidered with gold. The cloth is extremely fine, and depends as far as the knee; it is covered with a light coat of mail and a gilt cuirass. The arms are free, and the head is covered with a gilt casque. When wearing this dress on State occasions their only weapon is a lance, which they handle with wonderful dexterity. With their undress they are armed with a musket. The battalion is composed of four companies, and each company of 100 women, commanded by a captain of their sex. Should the captain die, the company is drilled during three days by the King, who appoints the most competent to succeed to the command. The battalion has been commanded for the last five years by a woman who saved the King's life at a tiger hunt by her courage and skill. She possesses great influence at court, and is much respected by those under her command. She has the same establishment as a member of the royal family, and ten elephants are placed at her service.

The King never undertakes any expedition without being accompanied by his female guard, nor does he ever hunt, or even ride out, without an escort of the same guard, who are devotedly attached to his person. Each individual of the battalion has five negroes attached to her service; and having thus no domestic occupation, she can devote herself exclusively to the duties of her profession. There is a parade ground near the city, where one company is stationed for two days every week to exercise themselves in the use of the lance, the pistol, the musket, and the rifle. The King attends once a month at those exercises, accompanied by his brother, who shares in some degree the sovereign power, and distributes prizes to those most deserving. Those rewards consist of bracelets, or other valuable jewellery, to which the females and their families attach great importance. Those so honoured fill the offices of sergeant and corporal.

Punishment is very rare in this corps, and when it is inflicted it consists of a suspension from service for a period not exceeding three months. But duels are much more frequent. They must be sanctioned, however, by the female captain, and be fought with swords, in presence of the entire company. When the death of one of the parties ensues, the deceased receives a magnificent funeral, and the high priest pronounces a panegyric, declaring that the deceased, by her valour, has merited eternal rest in the abode of the blessed. The survivor receives the congratulations of her companions; but, as a measure of discipline, she is sentenced to pass two months away from her company, in fasting and prayer. The military organisation of this battalion is so perfect that the entire army endeavours to imitate it.

RUSSIAN OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL ASIA.—Another collision has taken place on the frontiers of Persia, between the Russians and Turcoman tribes. In virtue of a convention signed between Russia and Persia in the year 1846, the Russians constructed the fortress of Petrovsky on the Caspian Sea, near Astrabad. The commander of the fort, in order to protect the garrison from a surprise, lately erected two exterior works communicating with the fort. These works had scarcely been finished, when, on the 11th of January last, the Turcomans, profiting by a dense fog, fell suddenly on the Russians, and forced them to fall back on the fortress with a slight loss. The Governor, having placed the garrison under arms, sallied out with a strong force, and held in check the Turcomans, who had already begun to demolish the works; and he, at the same time, demanded assistance of the Governor of Ashoorada, which was immediately sent to him. The Russians then pursued the Turcomans, killed some, and took more prisoners; among whom was a chief of the principal tribe in the Mazandaran, who was immediately sent to the Governor-General at Astrabad. The Russians are waging an implacable war against the Turcoman tribes at present.

A TERRIBLE SUPERSTITION.—There is a belief among the most ignorant of the French peasantry in the Haute Marne, that a lantern made of the skull of a young child will render the person who carries it invisible. A farm labourer, named Vautrin, in the commune of Henille-le Grand, has been condemned to death for the murder of a baby, eleven months old, the child of his master; and the evidence showed that Vautrin had stolen the child out of its cradle, and hacked off its head for this purpose.

POISONING BY MISTAKE.—One of those frequent cases of mistake in preparing a prescription has occurred at Baltimore, with a very tragical result. The prescription was for a child, whom it killed instantly. The physician took the remainder of the medicine to the druggist, and told him he had made a dreadful error. The druggist persisted he had not, and was so confident in his accuracy that he swallowed a portion of the mixture. It was a fatal confidence; in five minutes he was a dead apothecary. On analysis it appeared he had mixed a preparation of prussic acid strong enough to kill fifty men.

ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—PROPOSED COMPROMISE.—After a lengthened conference between the committee of shareholders and the committee of depositors, the following resolutions were passed:—"The shareholders (through their committee) propose and agree to pay to the creditors of the bank a composition of 6s. 6d. in the pound, by two instalments of 3s. in the pound on the 2nd of March next, and 3s. 6d. in the pound on the 17th of April next. The creditors to receive such dividend beyond the assets under the bankruptcy in discharge of the debts due to them from the bank. The call of £50 per share made by the directors not to be enforced after the acceptance of the offer by the general body of creditors, and no proof to be made against the estate in Bankruptcy in respect of any deposit or claim by a shareholder. The details of this arrangement to be agreed on between the solicitors of the committee of shareholders and the committee of depositors respectively."—"That it is desirable that a receiver in Chancery should be appointed, if practicable, so as to afford protection to the shareholders, and also that all the creditors should be required to execute a release to all shareholders, but whether such appointment be made, or release obtained or not, the shareholders pledge themselves to pay the compromise of 6s. 6d. in the pound, as mentioned in the foregoing resolution." This appears to be a very fair offer. It will be observed that the 6s. 6d. in the pound proposed to be paid by the shareholders is over and above what may be realised by the available assets, and divided by the assignees.

MILLINERS AND THE LATE-HOUR SYSTEM.—A large and influential meeting was held at Exeter Hall on Tuesday, under the auspices of the Society for the Aid of Dressmakers and Milliners. The Earl of Shaftesbury, the Bishops of London and Llandaff, Sir George Warren, Major the Hon. H. J. Powys, and other influential gentlemen, were present. The Bishop of London moved the first resolution—"That in the opinion of this meeting the labour exacted from assistants in dressmakers' and milliners' establishments, wherever it extends to fourteen, sixteen, or eighteen hours per day, is inconsistent with the health of the workers, and opposed to the principles of humanity." His Lordship spoke strongly in favour of this resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Archer, and carried with applause. The Bishop of Llandaff said, that the evils arising to young girls from working from fourteen to twenty hours a day, which was common, must be intolerable. In order to escape from so galling a yoke, they must fly to every excess. If the women of England were but to take the matter in their own hands, the system must end. The second resolution, which called upon all classes to unite in applying a prompt remedy to the evil, was moved by Lord Shaftesbury. Another resolution recommended that a registry of those establishments in which the business and domestic arrangements are consistent with the welfare and comfort of the young persons employed, should be kept, for public inspection, at the offices of the Dressmakers' Association, Clifford Street, Bond Street.

THE POPE AND THE MURDERED ARCHBISHOP.—The Pope has addressed a brief to the Bishop of Tripoli, condoling with him on the murder of the Archbishop of Paris, his relative, "who," His Holiness declares, "was cruelly put to death by the sacrilegious hand of an abominable priest." The Holy Father declares that he felt extreme affliction at the lamentable event; that he has the firm hope that the deceased prelate, freed from earthly things, has entered the heavenly kingdom; and he pronounces a warm eulogium on him for his piety, zeal, and other virtues, and for his "special veneration" for the Pope himself, and for the Holy See.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

THE Exhibition of the Works of British Artists in the rooms of the Institution "for Promoting the Fine Arts in the United Kingdom," was opened to the public on Monday last; and though not altogether in the cynical spirit of Diogenes, still lantern in hand, and determined to seek—if honest men lacked—for honest pictures, we trudged to Pall Mall, and by means of that odd-shooting trap of a staircase by which the ascent to the Exhibition Rooms is made, found ourselves at once among the painters.

We remember once having heard a traveller, who was an acute observer, and who possessed a keen eye for beauty, declare that he had never seen a pretty woman among the audience of the Grand Opera in Paris; while another, as acute and as appreciative, averred that he had never seen such pretty women as he had beheld in the same theatre in the course of his travels from one end of Europe to the other. This discrepancy of opinion we heard satisfactorily explained—on the old principle of the knights and the gold and silver shield—by a lady, who expressed her belief that all the pretty women in Parisian society were bound together in a sort of beauty league, and that, by agreement among themselves, they only attended the Opera, in the full pride of their charms, on certain evenings, and left the others to the frumps and the plain-faces.

We do not know whether a similar contract exists among the British artists; but it must either be by a most strange coincidence or by tacit consent, that good pictures are almost altogether wanting on the walls of the Institution this year, and that the good painters continue to "shine by their absence." Two degrees of art are here present—the mediocre and the bad; but the good, if it be here at all, exists in such an intangible, impalpable, and *ignis fatuus*-like form, that it would take us columns of wading through marshes and quagmires of bad pictures to discover it.

The number of works to which (without being able to award them unqualified praise) the attention of the spectator is attracted by their elevation above the dead level of merit possessed by the majority of the works exhibited, are in number four. First, the picture that heads the catalogue, "The Colossal Pair, Tiberius," by Mr. Frank Dillon. A vast expanse of "lone and level sands, boundless and bare;" the two giant statues, black, grim, taciturn, inscrutable, standing out against the evening sky; and the skeleton of a horse, his ribs just tipped by the red rays of the sinking sun: these are all Mr. Dillon's *mise-en-scene*. We have no fault to find with the drawing, or the composition, or the colouring of this performance. Our great objection to it is, that there is nothing in it—no story told, no thought expressed. It is a large picture, and the subject-matter is about sufficient to eke out a vignette in an album of Egyptian sketches. A silent desert, a red sky, ruins, and the skeleton of a horse or a camel; do not these come into "stock" with our artists now, as easily and as frequently as Sancho Panza's donkey, and Harold's body, and Moses's green spectacles? Mr. Dillon's intention in the "Colossal Pair" has evidently been to excite awe and solemn reflection; but the means he adopts are hackneyed and disagreeably obvious. "You will remark," he seems to say, "that there is nobody alive in this dreadful desert. Observe the skeleton of the horse. He is dead. *Pallida mors, æquo pulsat pede*, &c. &c. Observe to the right the setting sun; likewise the 'Colossal Pair' mentioned by the well-known poet Shelley;" and he winds up with a quotation from the author of "Queen Mab," and calls on us to clap our hands, and say that his picture is wonderful.

No. 446, "The Last Scene of the Merry Wives of Windsor," by the indomitable George Cruikshank, is the second specially noticeable picture. The pseudo-fairies have got the wicked old knight down on his epigastrium in the woodland glade, and are singing him, and flouting, and tickling, and pricking, and pinching, and buffeting him *con amore*. The "gross fat man," prone to our mother earth, roars, and struggles, and fumes with rage and mortification; but the elves (and George) will not let him off so easily, you may be sure; for has he not, in addition to his gallant delinquencies, incurred the Cruikshankian anathema-maranatha by so many years consumption of sack and sugar, with and without lime? Ought not the denouement of the "Merry Wives" to be the acceptance by Sir John of the Temperance Pledge at the hands of Mistress Page? The composition in this picture is wonderful—full, busy, rapid, moving with much symmetry of line, and without confusion or encephalophony of arrangement. The drawing and expression: is not that saying quite enough? There is an abundance of action, and vivacity and rich humour displayed throughout; but the picture cannot be regarded as a specimen of the art of painting in oil. It is a coloured etching, or an oil-sketch, or a set-scene in a play, seen through the wrong end of a lorgnon, or a well-executed slide in a magic lantern; but it is not a picture. It lacks all the essentials; it seems to be executed in defiance of all the means of effect that oil-colour and skill of hand can place at the disposal of the painter. The whole work would have looked much better in plain black and white; for the chiaro-scuro is admirable. As it is, the colouring is a mere platitude of pigments, that neither warm nor freeze, but simply chill. There are some fairies in yellow drapery waving torches, whose flames are of precisely the same tone of colour as the dresses of their bearers; there are elves with legs of exactly the same salmon hue as their faces; the gray in Falstaff's hair is the gray on the oaks; and the green in some of his tormentors' garments, the green on the sward, and nought else.

Mr. Wolf's "Covey" (255) is a very meritorious representation of a snow scene, in which, however, it appears to us, there is a great deal too much blue; and the partridges, clustering beneath the snow-clogged underwood, are exceedingly life-like and effective. The composition of the picture is to the highest degree eccentric; having much of the effect, at a first glance, of a bowl of whipped cream thrown suddenly against a wall; but on nearer examination, the drifting snow, arrested in its progress by the stern grip of nature's policeman, frost, is found to be well felt, and conscientiously rendered. The subject is trivial for so large a picture; but the breadth and vigour of the treatment give to the snow, the bush, and the birds, an importance by no means factitious.

The fourth picture calling for special examination is (76) Mr. John Gilbert's "Regiment of Royalist Cavalry at the Battle of Edgehill." This is a forcible, well-drawn, well-painted, well-arranged, well-narrated, and excessively disagreeable picture. The masses of horsemen are grouped together with that facility and skill of arrangement, which Mr. Gilbert—the hero of a hundred tournaments, Royal processions, and cavalry charges—possesses in a pre-eminent degree. The draperies hang in as massive, broad-shadow-casting folds as of yore; there is the same lavish gorgeousness of embroidery, and bullion fringe, and point lace, and silver trumpets with emblazoned bannerolls; there are noble cavaliers, pawing horses with long manes and tails, burnished cuirasses, and long rapiers; but the whole picture is leaden, pasty, heavy, lugubrious, clumsy, and inanimate. Why should Prince Rupert's troopers be all sons of Anak, with flexor and extensor muscles sufficient to knock Professor Harrison, the "strong man," down with? Why should their clothes never fit them, but hang about them in folds as heavy and loose as their buff boots are too big for them? Were the Royalist cavaliers all such Goliaths of Gath on horseback? were there none who sat their steeds with

"The thigh outspread, the thumb well press'd upon it,
And the jerk'd feather swaling from the bonnet?"

to quote Leigh Hunt's much-abused story of "Rimini." Were there no natty, spruce, jaunty, gallants in the army in which Suckling and Wilmot were captains? Why, too, should all Mr. Gilbert's steeds be Flanders "punches," only fit to draw some antiquarian coach and six? There are few draughtsmen so able—few masters of picturesque arrangement so cunning—few practitioners in the art of disposing the lights and the shadows so competent, as Mr. Gilbert; but his colour is either cadaverous or jaundiced, or febrile; never natural, never even pleasing—albeit false. And his characters do not live. There is no speculation in their eyes, no marrow in their bones. They tell not their story for themselves, but require, in oil, a margin of some very big type to explain their meaning, as Mr. Gilbert's facile drawings on wood require it in a book.

Apart from these pictures we cast ourselves on the waters of the catalogue, and among many numbers we find always the same *cachet* of mediocrity. We do not mean in every case mediocrity of merit in execution, for we have Messrs. Holland, Frith, E. Duncan, T. M. Joy, E. A. Goodall, W. C. Thomas, O'Neill, Sidney Cooper, Barraud, Miss Mutrie, G. Stanfield, T. Earl, and numerous other artists of established

reputation among the exhibitors; but there is a provoking, a distracting, an intolerable sameness in their contributions. Mr. Holland in (133) "On the Grand Canal, Venice," and in (484) "Off the Lido!" (why a note of admiration in the catalogue? Is it to supply the anticipated absence of enthusiasm on the part of the spectator?) shows us the same Venice, green in water, blue in sky, mottled in building, elliptical in bridge, green in blind, black in gondola, red night-capped in boatman, black-veiled and yellow-fanned in lady, that he has shown us a hundred times before. He is always gorgeous in colour—sunny, mellow, cool, and shady—when he pleases; but he "stops the way." He won't advance, he won't recede. He will go on painting from year to year, neither better nor worse, till we begin to think his name must be Ixion instead of Holland, so persistently, yet unadvancingly, does he roll that mass of Venice turpentine of his up-hill. Then there is Mr. E. W. Cooke, with his Venice, you know it well: that cool, clean, gray, pile-built, neatly picked out, doubly dyked and dammed Venice; well painted, transparent, and we daresay, according to the spectacles nature has given to Mr. Cooke, quite faithful and true. See this Venice (33) "The Molo;" would you not take affidavit that this Molo was on the Zuyder Zee, and not on the Adriatic; that Burgomasters and Syndics sat in a Stadt-Hans here, and not a Doge and Senators in a Ducal Palace; that Van Tromp's galley was laid up in the Arsenal in lieu of the *Bucefalus*; and that yonder black boat was a Dutch galliot, and not a gondola?

Mr. Frith has told the story of the courtship of Othello and Desdemona (180), the "Pliant Hour," very indifferently, though with his usual grace of drawing and careful manipulation. We can perfectly understand an auburn Italian beauty; but Mr. Frith's Desdemona is a flaxen young lady, evidently from Belgravia, possibly of Puseyite tendencies, who has just thrown aside her round hat, and with her hands demurely crossed, is listening to the "blarney" of Signor Mario, as Othello, with some walnut-juice rubbed on his face. The picture is of course marked "Sold." Mr. T. M. Joy exhibits four pictures. Two of these call for no notice at all. They are both trivial and vulgar in conception and execution. Of the two remaining, (341) "Love's Stratagem," is a pretty sketch, rather than a picture, of a very nice young lady, in a cavalier hat and plume, allowing the object of her affection to slip a *billet doux* into the hood of her white burnous or opera cloak;—said object of affection's hand only being visible in the picture. Mr. Joy's fourth picture (470), "Brighton Diamonds," reminds us of Mr. John Leech put into a water-colour bottle. There are some young ladies in round hats—who have been dancing the "valse à deux temps" last night, and will ride on the Cliff this afternoon, and dance and flirt again to-night—loiling on the beach, looking very pretty, and evidently put there for no other purpose than to be painted. Such a picture is fitter for the pages of "Punch," when Mr. Leech is "laced up" for a comic incident, than for the walls of the British Institution. Mr. Sidney Cooper's cattle are the same as usual. Mr. G. Stanfield's old German houses are as well (and as like his father) as can be expected; and Miss Mutrie's bouquets smell as sweetly as ever. The other exhibitors, famous and obscure, have not done anything demanding praise or condemnation at our hands. A malignant fairy seems to have cast a spell over the "Fine Arts of the United Kingdom," as far as regards the British Institution; and wherever the "Beauty in the Wood" may lie, *perdue*, in Pall Mall she is evidently a sleeping one.

OBITUARY.

GOULBURN, HON. MRS.—On the 1st instant, at Belchworth House, near Dorking, Surrey, died the Hon. Mrs. Goulburn. She was Jane, third daughter of Matthew, fourth Lord Rokeby, and sister of the present peer, and was married in 1811 to the late Light Hon. Henry Goulburn, who, after having sat for many years M.P. for the University of Cambridge, and having been Chancellor of the Exchequer under Sir Robert Peel, died in January, 1856. The title of Rokeby in the Irish peerage was first conferred on Dr. Richard Robinson, Archbishop of Armagh, in 1777, with remainder to his distant cousin, the uncle of the lady so recently deceased.

FITZHERBERT, T., ESQ.—On the 4th instant, in Clarges Street, in his sixty-eighth year, died Thomas Fitzherbert, Esq., of Norbury Manor, county of Derby, and Swynerton Park, county of Stafford. He was twenty-sixth Lord of the Manor of Norbury and tenth Lord of Swynerton; and served the office of High Sheriff for Staffordshire in 1831. The family of Fitzherbert is of Norman extraction, and appears on the roll of Battle Abbey. The original charter (dated 1125) by which William, Prior of Tutbury, conferred the Manor of Norbury upon the ancestors of the gentleman recently deceased, is still in possession of the family. The celebrated Mrs. Fitzherbert, whose union with his late Majesty King George IV. created so much sensation at the close of the last century, and again more recently since the publication of her "Memoirs" by the Hon. Charles Langdale, was widow of the uncle of the late Mr. Fitzherbert, and possessor of Norbury and Swynerton, who died without issue at Nice, in May, 1781.

THE ROYAL THEATRICALS.—Mr. Charles Kean has written to explain the letter of Mr. James Rogers, on which we remarked last week. Mr. Kean says:—"When performers are singly engaged at the Palace, their remuneration is allotted according to a scale which has never, to my knowledge, been questioned; but when it occasionally happens that the greater number of the performers for the evening's entertainment are taken from one theatre, and the manager finds it necessary to close his house for the night, he receives a sum of money in payment of the services of himself and his company, which are transferred to Windsor Castle, instead of being given at his theatre in London. When a theatre closes for this purpose, every person of this company receives the same salary to which he would have been entitled if the theatre had remained open to the public; and those members who are engaged at Windsor, in addition to the payment of every incidental expense, receive an extra night's salary. Mr. Wigan closed his theatre, and Mr. Rogers, therefore, must have been paid as much again as if he had acted on that night in London. Until I read the paragraphs in the newspapers, I was not aware that 13s. 4d. was Mr. Rogers's nightly payment at the Olympic Theatre."—Mr. Kean is rather obscure here. Thirteen and fourpence was the sum Mr. Rogers received for his services at Windsor; and if that is also his regular nightly salary, it is clear that he cannot have received "twice as much again as if he had acted in London."

THE NEW RECORD OFFICE, which was built in fear of fire, by which the public records have never been destroyed, has also been built in utter disregard of the old enemy, damp, we are told. All kinds of heating apparatus have consequently to be resorted to.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS.—The following interesting table shows the growth of the American railroad system:—

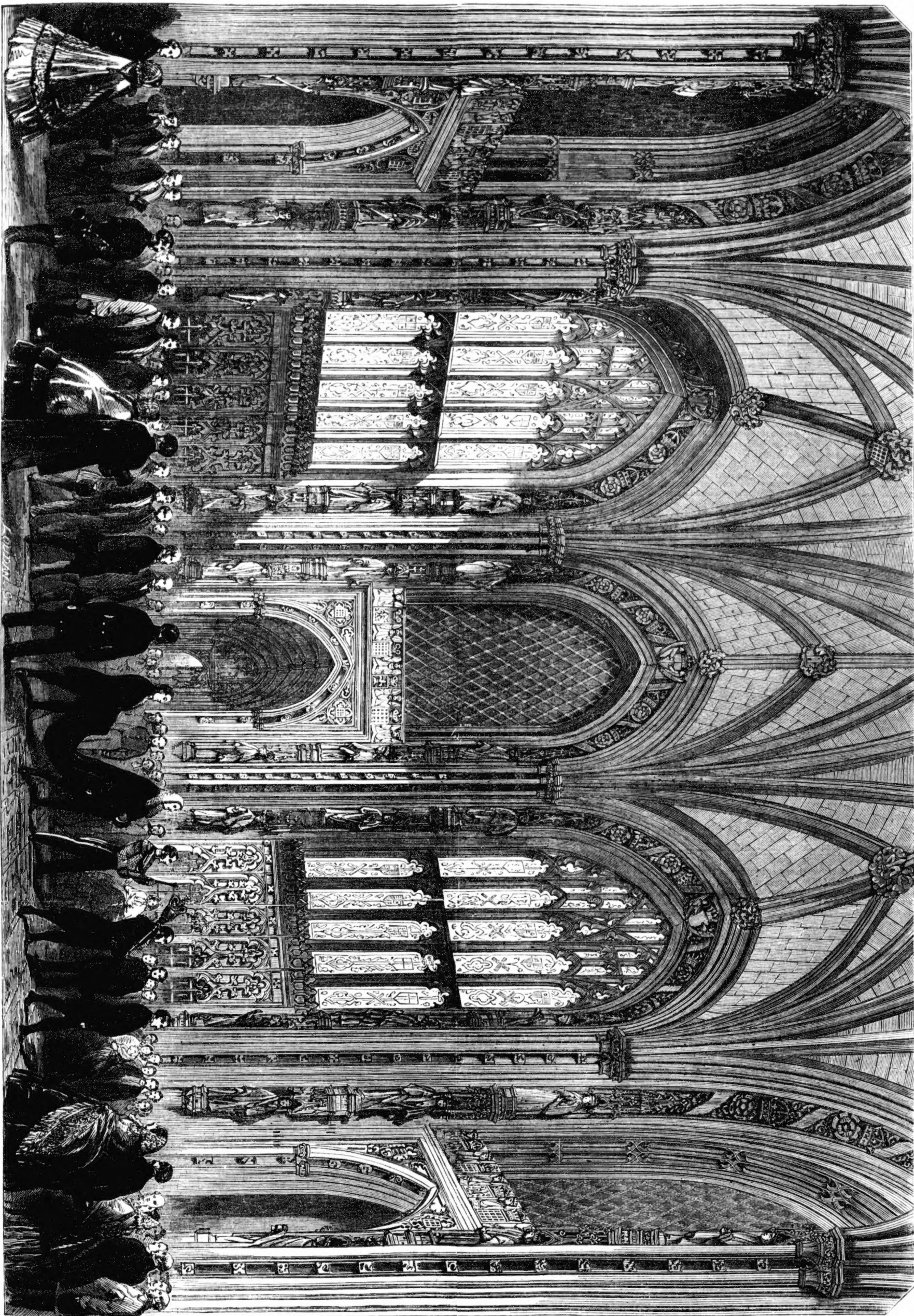
Years.	Miles.	Years.	Miles.
1828	3	1843	4,174
1829	28	1844	4,311
1830	41	1845	4,511
1831	54	1846	4,870
1832	131	1847	5,336
1833	570	1848	5,682
1834	762	1849	6,350
1835	918	1850	7,355
1836	1,102	1851	9,090
1837	1,412	1852	11,651
1838	1,843	1853	13,379
1839	1,920	1854	16,038
1840	2,167	1855	18,764
1841	3,319	1856	21,069
1842	3,877	1857	24,476

THE PERSIAN AMBASSADOR AT PARIS.

THE present complication of the Persian question keeps the Shah's Ambassador at Paris prominently before the world. In the House of Commons we hear, that with Lora Cowley Ferukh Khan is negotiating the settlement of the quarrel; but the same journal which records the gratifying information, also gives us a manifesto from the Persian Court virtually accepting the quarrel. Meanwhile, the Ambassador's popularity in Parisian society loses nought. The fame of his presents goes before him; and while his enamelled armlets, his "jackets of Cachmere with deep gold embroidery," secure the good wishes of the ladies of the Court, it is not to be doubted that they throw a certain charm over the opinions of gentlemen in office. We, in England, however, who are without the circle of fascination, are simply anxious that the Ambassador should really carry through what now proves to be a main object in his instructions—the termination of the Persian quarrel. The Emperor himself doubtless also wishes for such a consummation, and we may reckon upon his friendly offices in the matter. Last week we described the reception of the Ambassador at the Tuileries; in our present number we give an illustration of that interesting event.



THE RECEPTION OF THE PERSIAN AMBASSADOR AT THE TUILERIES.



THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS CROSSING ST. GEORGE'S HALL ON HIS WAY TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XXXI.

PROCESSION TO THE LORDS.

WHEN Parliament assembles after a prorogation, the Speaker enters the House in his usual manner, preceded by the Serjeant-at-Arms with the mace on his shoulder, and followed by the Chaplain. When he arrives in the outer lobby the doorkeeper heralds his approach by proceeding to the bar of the House, and calling out "Mr. Speaker!" whereupon the Members within rise, take off their hats and bow, as Mr. Speaker passes. Prayers are then read; on the conclusion of prayers, however, the Speaker does not count the House to see if forty members are present, because the usher of the Black Rod is expected to announce that the Queen, or a commission from her Majesty, requires the attendance of "her faithful Commons" at the Lords, and on such occasion there is no necessity for forty members to be present. The House is "made" if only the Speaker and Clerk of the House be there. So Mr. Speaker sits at the table quietly chatting with the Members, probably about the sports of the winter, about farming or county matters, for Mr. Speaker is an excellent shot, a rather celebrated farmer, and an active magistrate. When the Queen opens Parliament in person the House has never to wait long, but when it is opened by Commission some delay often occurs, for though her Majesty is always punctual, her Majesty's Commissioners are not. On the opening of Parliament, Sir Augustus Clifford always attends to perform the duty of summoning the House. At other times he not unfrequently hands this duty over to Mr. Pulman, his deputy. Sir Augustus dresses in a sort of military costume: blue, trimmed with gold, and wears sundry orders suspended from his neck by blue ribbons. The mode of summoning the House we have before described, and need not repeat it here. On the announcement of the approach of Black Rod, Mr. Speaker leaves his seat at the table, and takes his place in the chair, and the House is "made." And when Black Rod has delivered his message, and retired backwards, bowing as he retires, Mr. Speaker gathers up his robes, and preceded by the Serjeant-at-Arms with the mace, and followed by the Members, who are generally headed by the Premier, proceeds to "the Lords," to hear the Speech. The procession is rather an imposing one, and as but few of our readers have seen it, we have given a faithful sketch of it as it passed through the grand central Hall, on Tuesday, the 3rd instant. The first person in the procession is a Messenger of the House, the next is the Serjeant-at-Arms with the mace, then comes the Speaker chatting with Sir Augustus Clifford, the Usher of the Black Rod, the Train-bearer next, and then a crowd of Members. The Members appear to be walking in tolerable order; but they are not on these occasions remarkable for decorum. Indeed, when they get to the bar of the Lords, all order generally vanishes, for the space being small below the bar, and all being anxious to see and hear, they hustle and crowd more like a mob waiting for admission into a theatre, than the Commons of England in the presence of the Sovereign. And if it were not that "there is a Divinity doth hedge" the Speaker, in shape of a line of officials behind and a strong bar in front, he would stand a chance of being pitched into the Upper House before his time. On one occasion when there was more than the usual anxiety to hear the speech, "the hedge" was broken through, the Train-bearer's sword snapped asunder, and the Speaker and the Serjeant-at-Arms seriously incommoded by the press. On the return of the *cortège* the Speaker does not take the chair, but marches through the House to his own room, as it is arranged that the House will not transact business until a quarter to four o'clock. It does not adjourn, for the mace is left on the table, and when that is there the House is always considered to be sitting—it simply ceases to transact business for an hour or two. At a quarter to four the Speaker makes his appearance, and, without counting the House, proceeds to business. The first business is the swearing-in of Members. New Members before they are sworn sit under the gallery below the bar, and on the Speaker calling out "New Members, come to the table to be sworn," they walk up to the table, each introduced by two old Members, and having taken the oaths and received a shake of the hand from the Speaker, proceed to their places.

THE MACE.

The Mace is the symbol of the House's authority: it is carried before the Speaker on all state occasions—when he enters the House, when he goes to the Lords, and also when he has to go to the Palace with an Address to the Sovereign. When the House is in session, the Mace lies upon the table in front of the Speaker; when the House is in committee, it is placed under the table; for then the House is not sitting, but has, for the time, delegated its powers to a committee. We have often heard the question asked, whether this is the identical "bauble" which was so unceremoniously ordered to be "taken away" by Oliver Cromwell; but we have never heard the question satisfactorily answered. We have ourselves examined the Mace, and our opinion is that it is not the identical bauble. It has on its head the letters C. R., clearly showing that it was made in the reign of one of the Charleses; and we conceive it more likely that the old Mace was destroyed, and a new one made in the reign of Charles the Second, than that there should have been one made in the reign of Charles the First. It would be interesting, however, to ascertain how the matter really stands, and we recommend our old friend, "Dryasdust," to turn his attention to it. There are also many other matters and things connected with Parliament which he might search into; for instance, when did Mr. Speaker take to his enormous wig? when did the Serjeant-at-Arms leave off his military costume—for he was certainly once a real "serjeant-at-arms"—and don the court dress? &c., &c.

THE ADDRESS.

The first business of the House is to move and second the Address to the Queen, thanking her for "her most gracious Speech." The mover and seconder must appear to perform this duty in military costume if they are connected with the army, in naval dress if they belong to the navy, or in Court attire if they have not the honour to belong to either of the services. As these gentlemen, if not strictly military officers, are generally Deputy-Lieutenants of their counties, the military dress is mostly the costume adopted on such occasions. The Address is presented to her Majesty by the Premier, and on the following day some officer of her Majesty's household in Parliament brings the answer. Lord Drumlanrig, the Comptroller of the Household, has, up to this session, performed this duty, but now it will devolve upon Lord Castlereagh, his successor; but as the latter Noble Lord was not sworn in, Lord Ernest Bruce, the Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, acted in his stead during the past week. The business is managed in this way:—The officer of the Household, whoever he may be, appears in the House in his official costume of blue and gold, with his wand in his hand, and takes his seat below the bar, and there stays until the Speaker sees him and calls out, "Mr. Comptroller," or "Mr. Vice-Chamberlain." When he rises and informs the Speaker that he has been ordered by her Majesty to bring her answer to the Address, &c., &c., which answer he reads. The Speaker then calls out, "Bring it up!" and he takes it up, and having delivered it to the clerk, backs out, bowing as he retires. What the answer is nobody knows; for your state official always reads in such a low, mumbling tone, as to be perfectly inaudible. It is, however, very short, never occupying more than three or four lines, and is probably always the same.

THE BUSINESS.

Hitherto we have been very dull. The first night we had some liveliness, but still there was nothing like the excitement which we have seen on such occasions. Mr. Disraeli meant to deliver a great speech, but he certainly failed. The greater part of his harangue was delivered in a confused and bungling manner, for a speaker of his reputation. He hesitated, stammered, and at times seemed quite at a loss, either for ideas or for language to express them. He spoke early in the evening, when the House was shifting and restless; and these circumstances don't suit Mr. Disraeli. He seldom speaks well before dinner, and never unless the House is full. Midnight is the time to hear the leader of the Opposition. Mr. Gladstone spoke, of course, well; and so did Lord John Russell. Indeed, it was generally admitted that the Noble Lord delivered the most statesmanlike speech of the evening. Lord Palmerston was, as ever, ingenious, clever, and witty. His retort upon Disraeli was in his happiest vein, and made the House ring with laughter. "The Right Hon. Member," he said, "charges me with cleverly getting my party into difficulties, and cleverly getting it out of them. Well, at all events, I balance

the account; but if the Right Hon. Gentleman had inquired on his own side of the House, he might have heard of a gentleman who, last session, repeatedly got his party into difficulties, and—could not get it out again." It is amusing to watch Lord Palmerston when he is about to bring forth a joke; you may always know that something witty is coming. His face suddenly changes—it seems to get broader and shorter; and as he approaches to the actual moment of birth, you would hardly know it as the face of the Noble Lord. And doesn't he enjoy the joke! When Disraeli makes the House laugh, he never condescends to laugh himself—a sardonic smile is all that he indulges in; but Palmerston laughs outright, and evidently has some difficulty in pulling down his face to due statesmanlike gravity when he resumes his discourse. He certainly is a most marvellously tough man; time, and gout, and labour, seem to have no effect upon him. Whilst we are writing he is laid up with the gout; but we should not be surprised to see him limping on two sticks down the House any night, and sitting there till the chimes announce the small hours.

SPLENDID POSTAL DISTRICT MAP OF LONDON,
(Size 2 Feet 3 Inches by 3 Feet),

TO BE ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."

The Proprietors of the "Illustrated Times" desire to announce to their Subscribers that they have in preparation

A LARGE AND ELABORATELY-ENGRAVED

MAP OF LONDON,

ON THE SCALE OF 3 INCHES TO THE MILE,

With the Names of all the Streets distinctly shown, and with

THE DIVISIONS OF THE NEW POSTAL DISTRICTS

clearly defined. This Map, which is 2 feet 3 inches in depth by 3 feet in width, will be printed upon a sheet of paper the same size as the "Illustrated Times," and although it is an exact counterpart, not only as regards size, but in point of minute finish, of the Map prepared by direction of the Postmaster-General for the use of the London and Provincial Post Offices, and which is sold to the public at 6s., it will be issued to subscribers to the "Illustrated Times" at the price of an ordinary number of the paper, namely, 2½d., a price which, even in these days of cheapness, is without a parallel.

Specimens are now ready for the trade; and it is expected that the Map itself will be issued during the present month. The enormous demand which is certain to arise for an article which the recent Division of the Metropolis into Postal Districts has rendered indispensable to every letter-writer in the kingdom, makes it necessary that immediate orders should be given to the various Agents.

ENGRAVINGS AFTER PICTURES IN THE TURNER COLLECTION.

In the number of the "Illustrated Times" which will accompany the Map, will be commenced the publication of a series of

HIGHLY-FINISHED ENGRAVINGS ON A LARGE SCALE

after the

CHOICEST PICTURES OF THE TURNER COLLECTION AT

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

These will be produced in the VERY HIGHEST STYLE OF WOOD ENGRAVING ART, and will be printed with the greatest care. The series will be continued from week to week until completed.

TITLE-PAGE, INDEX, AND PREFACE

TO VOLUME THIRD OF THE

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

are now ready and may be procured of the Agents, Price ONE PENNY. Persons finding any difficulty in obtaining copies, will, on forwarding Two Stamps to this Office, receive the Title-sheet by return of Post.

CASES FOR BINDING VOLUME THE THIRD

Are also ready. Price 2s. each.

* A few copies of the HISTORY OF THE RUGELEY POISONINGS, including a long Memoir of Palmer, and a full Report of his Trial, Illustrated with Sixty Engravings, remain on sale at the ILLUSTRATED TIMES Office, Price 6d., or free by post 8d. Persons desiring copies must make early application for them.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1857.

THE CRIMINAL BILL.

On the 23rd of February comes off the second reading of Sir George Grey's Criminal Bill, and it is important that the public should understand what it is intended to do.

Let us begin by a slight sketch of the history of the affair. It was in 1853 that the last important change was made in the treatment of convicts. Transportation—our old remedy—after having done much good and some harm, had grown almost impossible, from the natural change of times. Colonies had outlived the need of convict labour, and the growing spirit of the age had made them more fastidious than they used to be about all criminal contact. Something must be done; so sentences of less than fourteen years' transportation were abolished, and terms of penal servitude substituted in their place. The proportion of time arranged was, that penal servitude for four years should be substituted for transportation for seven. At the same time, tickets-of-leave—now so famous—were adopted into home practice. The measure was an experiment, produced by the difficulties of the transportation system, and also influenced by the "philanthropic" doctrines of modern times—doctrines widely diffused by very active and very amiable persons, and which it seemed ungracious to oppose, even if one doubted their soundness.

Well, the measure of 1853 is clearly a failure. It has not given satisfaction even for four years. It does not please Government, nor the judges, nor the press, nor the ticket-of-leave men themselves. Probably the special ticket-of-leave danger has been somewhat overdone of late. But, any way, Government finds that it cannot abide entirely by the settlement of 1853; and this conviction is so general, that we apprehend the bill will pass with little essential modification.

The pith of the bill consists in its increased severity, and its recurrence to transportation of the old fashion. Sentences of penal servitude are to be lengthened, so as to be made identical with the sentences of transportation for which they were substituted; and a pretty extensive system of transportation is to be carried on—the place being Western Australia. Sir George Grey gave us a flattering picture of the capabilities of that part of the globe for the purpose. It is a vast plain, from only three ports of which convicts could escape at all, and which ports might be easily guarded. There is a fine breed of horses—there are water and timber—and the land and climate permit the growth of the vine. Nay, Sir George even hints that the happy convict may possibly have a mate—a *placeus uxor*—to share his exile. The Irish female convicts, it seems, are a superior breed; they have a notion of chastity. It reminds one of what Athenæus tells us—that "the Celtic women are the fairest women of all the barbarians." A man might do worse than settle in a vine-growing country, with a handsome Irish wife!

But what class of convicts do you propose to send there? Here a slight confusion arises. The Government (with great propriety)

retains a power of selection of convicts; but the public have generally thought that it was the incorrigible section of rascals for which the transporting power was needed. What, then, are the greatest scoundrels in the kingdom to have the best fate—the fine climate, the vines, and the Irish wives? That would indeed be absurd; for, in the first place, they would be far more troublesome, and so, more expensive. They would terrify the colonists, even on the other side of the continent; and when it got about among the scoundrel public that the life had the above-named advantages, we should soon have fellows taking first-class degrees in crime, in order to be sent out to so genial and promising a colony. No. Let us, if Western Australia be such a place as it is represented, send our mildest and best convicts there, and keep the thorough villains for rough public works—for sea-port use—for hard prison life and hard prison fare.

But will the Australians tolerate even the transportation to Western Australia—the "800 to 1,000" who might be (as Sir George Grey tells us) annually sent there? On this point we are not so clear. The very day that Sir George's speech appeared in the "Times," there appeared alongside of it the last batch of Melbourne news. Among that news was the account of a desperate attempt at escape by convicts from Williamstown, with murder to complete it. The "Melbourne Argus," which is before us while we write, gives full details of this event. Eight convicts were implicated in it, and a constable and a sailor were killed by them. The leader of the gang, one "Melville," smashed the constable's head with a heavy hammer, which had been used in stone-breaking. Assuredly, this news comes very *mal-à-propos* just now; and we see that the "Times" correspondent in Melbourne improves the occasion, for he goes so far as to say, in speaking of the colonial opposition to receiving convicts, "if constitutional means fail, we must endeavour to invent some other means." The fact is, that Australia, while growing rapidly, is becoming self-confident in proportion. The same number of the above-quoted "Argus" (29th October, 1856) boasts that the colony of Victoria ships annually for England a hundred tons of solid gold! and adds, that "it deserves rather more attention than has yet been accorded to it by the world at large." This is a mood of mind which promises difficulty to Sir George Grey.

Government, be it understood, still retains the ticket-of-leave system by Sir George Grey's measure. His figures certainly tend to moderate the alarm which we have heard so much of lately; still, there is evidently much imperfection somewhere in the working of this system, and we expect to hear, when Parliament again resumes the subject, that the method of its working is to be altered. We trust it is to be modified rather with an eye to severity than to further "philanthropy." The one great weakness of this age is cant, and the cant of tenderness has had quite swing enough.

We rejoice to see the Reformatory Bill—a kind of appendix to the other—for the reformatory "juvenile" movement is the only philanthropic tendency in this line which we very cordially approve.

A RACHEL AT MARYLEBONE.

A POOR widow woman, named Allsop, writes to Mr. Broughton, still mourning for her children, and will not be comforted. She has lost five sons, all in the Queen's service as soldiers. Three fell at Cabul, two in the Crimea. This is in verity the realisation of Mrs. Hemans's "graves of a household." The poor woman is the granddaughter of a General, the daughter of a captain, the widow of an officer in the army who sold his commission in order to pay his debts; and she has consequently no pension from the Government. "This," she says, "is my reward for bringing up five beautiful young men to be slain." "I have no more sons," she says elsewhere, "for England or the Queen; I am glad to get a coal or bread ticket, which is difficult to obtain."

It has nothing to do with the matter if Mrs. Allsop has, ere this, received deserved assistance from private sources of charity. Indeed, she admits that Mr. Broughton has relieved her, and that the Duke of Wellington and Lord Fitzroy (Raglan we presume), when alive, were kind to her. But the facts that she has given five sons to the service of the Queen of England, that they have all perished therein, and that she is destitute, are quite sufficient to entitle her, we think, to be secured from further want by Government assistance. Hers is purely a public claim. She has "done the State some service," and deserves well of the country; and if she had been relieved seventy-times-seven times by private individuals, it is to the country she has a right to look for permanent support.

In ancient Greece the mother who had born, and reared, and sacrificed, five sons for the service of the State, would have had a statue erected to her. In modern France she would have had a medal and a pension. In England she is glad to get a coal or bread ticket, "which is difficult to obtain." This being the case, let us make haste to give the Grand Cross of the Bath to General Mismanagement, and knight General Incapability, and give General Imbecility a thousand a year good-service pension; for of such are the ways of the Circumlocution Office.

"MOVE ON!"

"Go spin, you jade; go spin!" was the uncourteous advice given by the old Vicar of Bray-like Noble, who was Catholic and Protestant alternately, just as the political wind blew, when he turned the Abbess out of her nunnery. In some respects the "Move on" of our sententious policeman does not suggest even so useful an alternative, for money may be made by spinning. "Move on!" frequently seems to be synonymous with "Go steal!"

Here is a gentleman who attends before Mr. Alderman Wilson, and complains that the police will not allow him to have his boots cleaned. He was going out to dinner (we imagine him to be a stout, benevolent gentleman in a white waistcoat), and finding, in the open space in front of the Royal Exchange, a number of shoeblacks, submitted his extremities to the polishing process of one of those humble but useful and willing ministers of the graces. But the shoeblack he patronised not being a Brigade boy, a stern policeman (notwithstanding it was past four o'clock, and that the "Brigadiers" all leave at that hour) drove him and his companions away; not even suffering him to finish cleaning the pair of boots he was then engaged upon; and leaving the disappointed, and naturally indignant gentleman in a ridiculous "goose-step" quandary, with one dirty boot and one clean one.

The inspector on being called to account for this unnecessary and tyrannical rigour on the part of the police, excused himself on the ground that when these shoeblacks were gathered together round a gentleman, it sometimes happened that his pocket was picked of his handkerchief; but this theory the sitting Alderman would by no means entertain. "You have no right to interfere with these boys while pursuing a harmless vocation, and not obstructing the thoroughfare, and if the gentleman has his pocket picked, that is his own look out." We quite agree with Alderman Wilson in this respect, and think that by a parity of the inspector's reason, we might just as well put down omnibuses, because thieves sometimes travel by them. Even more strongly do we hold with the Alderman in this sharp reprimand he administered to the police—"The boys try to earn an honest penny, but you will not allow them to do so, and compel them to become thieves." Here, indeed, is the rub—here, indeed, the shoe pinches—here is the old story over again of the crossing-sweeper Joe, "chivied" by the police for not "moving on." "You shan't work," the police seem to say, "you mustn't steal; but you must move on." So the ragged shoeblack moves on; and in default of pennies, and tired of starving, steals.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE SATURDAY OF MINISTERS at foreign courts amount to £121,222 a year. AN INTERESTING CONTROVERSY is now going on in the "Lancet," on the subject of police smoking.

A GREAT DEATH OF NATIVE SEAMEN exists in America—perhaps free Yankees don't like to be brutally knocked about by ship officers; and though by two thirds of each crew should be American-born, it is stated that not one out of the sailors in American ships really are so.

LOLA MONTE is now living quietly in New York, where she is bringing up her daughter, aged sixteen, to the stage.

A MEETING has been held at Norwich, at which a very decided feeling was manifested against the Chinese and Persian wars.

THE TYNE SEAMEN have resolved to reduce the wages of their seamen at the end of one month, owing to the depressed state of the coal-trade.

A LITTLE GIRL residing with her parents, near Gap, in the Hautes-Alpes, was ten days ago carried off by a famished wolf, which was driven from the mountains by the excessive cold.

NUMEROUS DEATHS AND GREAT SUFFERING among the Mormon emigrant trains, from want and cold, are reported.

DR. SANDWICH, whose name is so well known to the public in connection with the siege of Kars, has been appointed Colonial Secretary of the Mauritius, in the room of Mr. G. J. Bailey, now Governor of the Bahamas.

A BURGLES, travelling from Veron the other night, was stopped and robbed.

FEEDING has become of common occurrence at Boston, U.S. We hear that these animals sell for 2 dols. 50 cents per hundred, and are expected to command a still higher price.

SIR ARCHIBALD ALFORD last week delivered a lecture on "The Moral and Religious Aspects of the Late War," in the Queen-Street Hall, Edinburgh, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Institute.

THE ELECTION of an Honorary President of the Associated Societies of Edinburgh took place in the University of Edinburgh on Wednesday. The candidates were Sir John McNeill and Lord John Russell. The contest was remarkably even; and at the close of the poll, Sir John McNeill was elected by a majority.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS in aid of the sufferers by the late accident to the Pontefract lifeboat now amount to £3,834 9s. 10d.

THE SCARCITY OF PROVISIONS in Denmark and Lapland is occasioning great misery.

THE PERFECT OF THE SPINE has just received from Mr. John Strang, secretary to the subscription for the sufferers by the inundations, opened at Glasgow, a bill of remittance of £900.

THE MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY will preside at the anniversary festival of the Benevolent Society of St. Patrick, at the Freemason's Tavern, on the 17th of March next.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has ordered twenty-five magnificent opera-glasses some of them to be ornamented with 2,000 worth of diamonds, which he intends to offer as a present to the Grand Duke Constantine when he arrives.

A CROWD of MEETING of unemployed workmen was recently held at the Temperance Hall, Cheltenham. It was resolved to petition Government to grant free passage to the colonies, as their only hope was emigration.

A NEW APPARATUS for lowering boats from a ship's stern has been tested at Woolwich with a satisfactory result. A boat manned by ten men was lowered easily and rapidly, by one only of the crew from the boat. The apparatus is the invention of a Mr. Clifford.

WHILE THE STEAM-BOAT GOLIATH was towing three iron boilers from Wemyss to Rosedale, near Stirling, two of them filled with water, and went to the bottom, off Kettlepoint Point. Their value is about £300 each.

THE EXECUTION OF THE STATUE for which £1,000 was left by Turner's will has been given by the trustees to Mr. McDowell, R.C.A. It is to be erected in St. Paul's. The competitors were all Royal Academicians.

THE PRINCE DE LIGNE has, we hear, refused to accept the order of St. Anne from the Emperor of Russia, on the express ground that higher honours have been conferred upon the Count de Morny.

THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES have given a prize for astronomy to Mr. Pogson, of Oxford, for the discovery of the planet Ixus. One of the Montyon prizes for discoveries in medicine and surgery has also been granted to Dr. Simpson for his successful use of chloroform. The Cuvier prize was awarded to Professor Owen.

MR. DAVIS has discovered the remains of an ancient temple at Carthage, which is believed to be that of Dido.

A REMARKABLE ADVERTISEMENT recently appeared in the "Record." It runs as follows:—"The year of a nice healthy parish, who is fond of music, wishes to meet with a pious and amiable curate of similar taste who plays on the piano-forte. Address W. D., &c."

RAT-KILLING, according to the "Quarterly Review," has, within the last twenty years, become a favourite pastime with launds; to wit, "There are private trunks of the kind, where our fair countrywomen, leaning over the cushioned circle, will witness with admiration the cleverness of their husbands' or brothers' terms."

A PORTRAIT OF THE BISHOP OF LONDON, who was a pupil in the Edinburgh Academy, is to be hung in the hall of that institution, to perpetuate his name as a pupil, and to stimulate the exertions of future pupils of the school.

M. GUSTAVE DE ROTHSCHILD, son of Baron James de Rothschild, is shortly to be married to a daughter of Baron Lionel de Rothschild.

THE RIO BANK finds itself under the necessity of obtaining direct importations of gold to retrieve the errors in the management of its circulation. The Royal mail steamer Medway, which recently left Southampton for Brazil, took out £119,000 in gold.

THE POPE has signified his intention of himself consecrating the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Clifford to the Roman Catholic bishopric of Clifton. Dr. Clifford (who is Lord Clifford's brother) will be the first English Catholic Bishop who has received this special mark of the Pope's friendship.

THE LIFE OF MR. (formerly Archdeacon) Robert Wilberforce is in great danger, from gastric fever: he has been removed from Rome, where he was completing his preparation for the Catholic priesthood, to Albano.

A SINGULAR ACCIDENT occurred on the Serpentine last week. On the Wednesday night, a man took a bedstead and four chairs on to the ice, and erected a tent. In the morning the man and two chairs were missing; the ice was broken, and underneath was found the man's body.

THE LATE SIR HUGH RICHARD HOARE, of Stoneham, Wilts, bequeathed £11,000 to various charitable institutions.

THE HOLY INQUISITION at Rome has prohibited and condemned the pastoral instructions of the Archbishop of Utrecht and of the Bishops of Haarlem and Breveter. It need hardly be said that the three prelates, who are designated "Jansenists," are opponents of the new dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

TWO BILLS—one authorising the Queen to grant commissions in the army and navy to the natives of the Ionian Islands, and the other enabling her Majesty to sever Norfolk Island from the diocese of Tasmania, and to annex it to the diocese of Sydney—were issued on Saturday.

THE UNIVERSAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION, which was to be opened at Paris on the 1st of June, will not be held this year.

THE GOVERNMENT ARCHITECTS have prepared plans for an alteration of the entrance-hall of the Gallery in Trafalgar Square, meant to provide a larger room, better lighted, for the school of English sculpture. The present back room—the den—is to be thrown into the hall; a new dome is to rise on the roof and light the new room.

THE SUBSCRIPTION in aid of the fund in course of collection for the relief of the sufferers by the loss of the Violet, now reaches over £2,000. The committee have decided to divide it among the widows and dependent children of the unfortunate crew in certain proportions, according to the rank held by the deceased in the Mail Company's service.—"For 'according to the rank,' we should prefer to read, 'according to the necessities.'"

IN FLORIDA, some Indians lately shot a Mr. Shive as he was at work in the field. His wife, seeing the murder, snatched up one of her children and rushed to a hut, but before she could get away she and the child were shot. A lame child, which was left in the house, was burnt with it by the Indians.

A CHILD nine years old was recently imprisoned in Exeter Jail for ten days, for throwing stones.

MARY READ, aged eighteen years, a pupil in a Roman Catholic convent at Chelsea, took calomel acid, a few days ago, as she "wished to leave the world," and died.

EVERYTHING that the Abbé Verger wrote during his imprisonment has been burnt by the French authorities.

A LINK OF IRON SCREW-STAMERS is about to be established between Bristol and Australia.

A HANDSOME CLIPPER BRIG of 400 tons burthen, and a schooner, were recently launched from the yard of Mr. Henry Harvey, Littlehampton.

THE EARL OF HARRWOOD, whose late accident reduced him to a very precarious condition, is reported to be slowly recovering.

ACCORDING to the census of 1856, the population of the Danish monarchy amounts to 2,620,000 souls, being an increase of 600,000 since 1835.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

WHEN Mr. James Rogers, comedian, of the Olympic Theatre, presented the sum of thirteen and fourpence to the poor-box of the Lambeth Police-office, as the price of his services at the court theatricals, he could scarcely have had sufficient vanity to imagine that his satirically munificent donation would have called forth the cloud of obloquy which has resulted. Until the present Queen instituted the Windsor court theatricals, there was no end to the complaint of want of royal patronage for the drama; and when indignant patriots read of occasional state visits to the opera and frequent private attendances at the French plays, they were roused in their denunciation of foreign leanings, and mauling over the desecration of the temples of the national drama. When rouge and haresfeet invaded the precincts of Royalty, and socks and buskins trod the courtly boards of St. George's Hall, these clamourings ceased, and hopes for a bright dramatic future were entertained. The theory, however, was a false one; it is not to be denied that the institution of the court theatricals has done good, and would have done much more had the arrangement of them been better managed. The Director of the Theatricals, or Master of the Revels (*lucus a non*, in the present instance), should have been some gentleman celebrated for his knowledge of and interest in dramatic affairs, but sufficiently removed by position or retirement from the chance of any whisper of favouritism or intrigue. Instead of this, the director chosen was Mr. Charles Kean, a worthy gentleman, a scholar, an enterprising manager, and a good melodramatic actor; but, unfortunately, a gentleman who is scarcely on speaking terms with any of his dramatic or managerial brethren. Moreover, the plan pursued was an unfortunate one. Pieces were "cast" from several theatres, and that this did not work well we have an instance this very court season, when we find Mr. Leigh Murray set down for Trip in the "School for Scandal," while Mr. George Vining played Charles Surface. The proper way undoubtedly would have been to let each theatre have its own night of representation, and then each performance would have been perfect. Drury Lane would have furnished Mr. Charles Mathews, Mr. Roxy, Mr. and Mrs. Keeley, and Mrs. Frank Matthews; the Princess's would have given Mr. and Mrs. Kean, Mr. Walter Lacy, Mr. Harley, Miss Leclercq, Mr. Ryder, and Mr. Frank Matthews; from the Adelphi would have been selected Mr. Webster, Mr. Wright, Mr. Leigh Murray, Madame Celeste, Miss Mary Keeley, and Miss Wyndham; from the Haymarket, Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Chippendale, Mr. Compton, Mr. Howe, Miss Reynolds, and Miss Blanche Fare; from the Olympic, Mr. and Mrs. Wigan, Mr. Robson, Mr. G. Vining, Miss Herbert, and Miss Marston. The ladies and gentlemen at each house are accustomed to each other, in the habit of working together, and each manager has a certain set of pieces best calculated for showing off the excellencies of his company. Under the present régime, however, all these ancient points are lost, and half-a-dozen extremely talented people are sacrificed for the sake of showing off the cleverness of one individual actor. The explanatory letters which have since appeared in the "Times" and elsewhere, seem to point to this conclusion, that Mr. Rogers's small donation reflected, not on the Court or the director of the theatricals, but on his own manager, who received a certain sum for the use of his company, and paid but meagrely for their services. Had not Mr. Rogers's name appeared in very small type in another portion of the same paper, his conduct would have been more gracious.

The Vane Tempest family, or rather the younger scions of it, are a credit to their order. Of the youngest, Lord Ernest, we have heard enough. His elder brother, Lord Adolphus, after having gone through that scrape of intellectual enjoyment which a commission in the Scots Fusilier Guards holds out to its fortunate possessor, is now a representative of the people, and in that capacity does all he can for the public good. Bitten by the lecturing mania, which is now the prevailing epidemic common both to clever men and fools, his Lordship determined to address an audience at the Sunderland Athenæum, and to indulge them with his recollections of the Crimean campaign. Happy Sunderland! A poor Irish commoner, a man of no genius and no family, although bearing the aristocratic name of Russell, had indeed scribbled a few miserable articles on the same subject, which had been published in an obscure newspaper called the "Times;" another officer, plebeian likewise, named Hamley, had feebly drivelled on the same subject in a struggling periodical known as "Blackwood's Magazine." But Sunderland was to hear from the lips of a live lord the account of his experience, and Sunderland did not hear it! No, he toiled, and waded, and hemmed, and coughed, and broke down, and apologised, and made a miserable failure, and henceforth the name of Vane Tempest will be surrounded in the minds of men with a halo, not only of honourable conduct but of literary ability. Why not get up a great national fair? Ringmasters—Lords Derby, Zetland, and Richmond; cheap-jacks—Lord A. Vane Tempest and Sir Robert Peel; horse-collar business—by Mr. Henry Drummond.

The first meeting of the Artists and Amateurs' *conversazione*, took place at Willis's Rooms, on Thursday, the 6th, and was well attended.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE HAYMARKET—ST. JAMES'S.

ON Saturday night, a version of "Les Faux Bonhommes," a piece of Messrs. Theodore Barrière and Ernest Cailander, which was played with great success at the Vaudeville last November, was produced at the Haymarket, under the title of "Double-faced People." The title gives the key to the intention of the piece, and nearly every character introduced is in reality different to his external semblance. Mr. Jonathan Vacile (Mr. Chippendale) has a country house, to which come Mr. Scrummel (Mr. Buckstone), a caricaturist, and George Medley (Mr. W. Farren), a portrait painter. Vacile's daughter, Emily (Mrs. E. Fitzwilliam), is engaged to a Mr. Pike, but falls in love with Medley; and when her father finds out that Medley is the nephew of the celebrated millionaire, Moneybee (Mr. Rogers) he throws over Pike, and smiles auspiciously on the love-making of the young couple. Mr. Pike, nothing abashed, proposes for Vacile's second daughter, Fanny (Miss Reynolds); and being supposed, from his intimacy with Scripp (Mr. Braid), a great bubble capitalist, to be a man of money, his proposal is joyfully accepted. Of course, things in general go to the bad. Scripp and Pike, their company smashed, are heard of no more; and old Vacile is forced to throw himself on the generosity of Medley, who is married to Emily, while Fanny accepts the hand of Scrummel, who has all along loved her.

Minor characters in the piece, all working out the "double-faced" notion, are admirably played by Mr. Compton, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Cullenford; while each of the principals laboured zealously for the general good. There appeared, however, to be a great want of interest, of "go," and, while the piece has been generally well adapted, the dialogue wants smartness and brevity. Mr. Buckstone, Miss Reynolds, and Mrs. E. Fitzwilliam, have very unsatisfactory parts; while those characters in which the real interest is concentrated, can scarcely be called original. The piece, however, was decidedly successful, and will probably have a run.

At the St. James's Theatre, on Saturday evening, an amateur performance, under the immediate patronage of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, took place, in aid of the fund for the reward of the Broadstairs and Margate boatmen, who risked their lives for the crew of the *Northern Belle*, and for the relief of the widows of those who were lost in the attempt. I arrived only in time to see the conclusion of the first piece, "Where there's a Will there's a Way," but I saw a little bit of low comedy acting by Mr. Haigh, as Don Scipio de Pompolino, which at once showed the skilled performer. The second piece, "Still Waters Run Deep," went well, very well, even with the recollection of the admirable Olympic "cast" fresh upon you. Here Mr. Haigh played Captain Hawley capital. His make-up was admirable, so was his *sang-froid* and enunciation; and had he but subdued a little tendency to pump-handle with his right arm, his performance would have left nothing to be desired. Perhaps, though, the best played character was the small one of Unbilly, which Mr. R. Morris endowed with a brogue and an insolence unrivalled even by those "eyardroivers," whose invariable wish is, on your first landing at Kingstown Pier, to "rowl you up to Morrison's." The amount realised by the performance was above £70—a result mainly attributable to the energy of Mr. Sams, who is always active in the cause of charity.

THE RELIGIOUS WAR OF BELGRAVIA.

THE ALTAR OF ST. BARNABAS.

THE case of Liddell and Westerton, which has already excited so much interest and created so much bitterness in certain circles, has once more come before the public. Our readers will remember, that after the controversy had been decided by the Consistory Court and the Court of Arches against the Hon. and Rev. Incumbent of St. Paul's and St. Barnabas, an appeal was made to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and on Monday, the 9th inst., the members of the Council assembled to hear the arguments of the counsel retained by the disputants.

On a former occasion, when Sir J. Dodson gave his judgment in the Court of Arches, we entered fully (see No. 88) into the details of the case; and we now illustrate our pages with an engraving of the Altar of St. Barnabas, one of the pieces of church furniture which have given so much offence to the Protestants of the district.

CONVOCATION.

THE Convocation of the Bishops and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury met on Wednesday week, in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster. In the Upper House, where the Archbishop of Canterbury presided, the chief subject of discussion arose on a petition presented by the Bishop of Chichester calling attention to the "indiscriminate use" of the Burial-service in cases where persons have died unbaptized, excommunicate, or by their own hands. The Bishop of Oxford was almost sure that the Bishop has power to protect a clergyman who refuses to read the Burial-service over such as die manifestly in the commission of deadly sin. Other Bishops expressed similar opinions. The Archbishop of Canterbury said that the difficulty of the remedy was greater than the difficulty of the evil, but the clergy would derive satisfaction from the statements of his reverend brethren.

In the Lower House a debate arose on the formation of a Court of Appeal in matters of doctrine, which, however, led to no satisfactory result.

Canon Selwyn gave notice of a motion, requesting the appointment of a learned body of men to take the proposed amendments to the authorised version of the Bible into consideration; while Archdeacon Denison and Canon Wordsworth announced motions of an opposite character.

The Reverend Canon Seymour submitted a motion intended to secure "the counsel and co-operation of the faithful laity in the proceedings of Convocation." Archdeacon Denison objected that such a motion was not in order; but the Prolocutor ruled otherwise; and Canon Seymour argued in behalf of his proposal at great length, citing authorities from the early and medieval times of church history. The motion was seconded by the Hon. and Rev. S. Best; but before it could be discussed the House adjourned.

These are the most important proceedings of the Convocation, which adjourned to the 20th of June. We shall now give a brief history of Convocation.

Everyone is aware that during what are called the "Middle Ages," large grants of lands and money passed into the hands of the Ecclesiastical body, consisting of regulars and seculars. In order that their large property might bear its proportion of the public burdens, the clergy were accustomed from an early date to send delegates, chosen out of their own body, to a meeting for the purpose of assessing their own taxation. The Church was expected to contribute its share towards the expenses of the State, which protected it and fortified it with immunities; and the meetings of the clergy to grant this aid were called their Convocation. Eventually this part of the British Constitution was settled by King Edward I., who formally erected the clergy into a "third estate" for the above purpose. The clergy, it is true, did not much like having to meet thus at the request and order of the King; but after many struggles, Convocation took a regular form, and the clergy right dutifully and regularly voted their aids and taxes to the service of the King. Gradually, however, they seem to have added to this simple duty the passing of canons and other regulations relating to themselves. This they did with great freedom and almost uncontrolled, down to the time of Henry VIII., who, by an Act passed in the twenty-fifth year of his reign, made the Royal consent necessary, not only for the ratification of any of the acts or resolutions of Convocation, but for enabling it to proceed to business at all. The importance of Convocation was still further limited by the 13th Charles II. chap. 4, when the clergy voted their last subsidy, and were afterwards assessed by a land-tax and a poll-tax. In 1664, they waived their ancient right of self-assessment, and permitted themselves to be included in the money bills prepared by the Commons. In return for this concession, the English clergy then first acquired the right of voting for burgesses and knights of the shire, like the laity. But in resigning their rights they gave up all their real practical power as a body, and from that day to the present they have ceased collectively to be considered as one of the "three estates" of the realm, at least in any real sense.

After this power of self-taxation, however, had been thus withdrawn or resigned, Convocation was still accustomed to meet as before; but its assemblies gradually came to be arenas of mere party squabbling, more especially after the accession of the House of Hanover. In the reign of George I. the Lower House of Convocation, consisting of the Parochial and Cathedral Clergy, took upon themselves to censure a book of rather liberal sentiments which had been published by Dr. Handley, successively Bishop of Bangor and Winchester; and party strife ran so high that the King and his Prime Minister agreed that it would not be advisable to allow that body to assemble any longer "for despatch of business."

Accordingly from that day till a very recent date, including a space of nearly 130 years, the annual meeting of Convocation had been a merely formal ceremony. The Archbishops then, under license and authority from the sovereign, convened it together with the meeting of every Parliament; but as soon as it had met they prorogued it again with all possible speed, after having passed a formal and meaningless address to the King.

Matters remained in this condition down to the year 1848, when the "Church Union" movement was commenced for the purpose (among others) of "reviving the active powers of the Convocation of the Clergy." In theory, of course, no one can deny that every religious body ought to have its special meetings, like secular societies, for the transaction of its own business and the regulation of its internal affairs; and this right was dwelt upon at the time with great force and earnestness by the various High Church periodicals, the supporters of the movement being for the most part identical with those gentlemen who had started and conducted the "Oxford Tracts."

At length, in 1851, some resolutions were moved in the House of Lords, to the effect that Convocation ought to be allowed to meet for despatch of business. These resolutions, though ultimately negatived, were ably supported by the Bishop of Oxford, Lord Redesdale, and Lord Lyttelton; and the question gained a grasp on the public attention. The Tractarian party, though opposed by the Government and by the Archbishop of Canterbury himself, cleverly determined to push on their agitation a step further; and so, in 1852, instead of moving inoperative and abstract resolutions in the House of Lords, they took French leave and made a beginning. By one contrivance and another, they managed to delay their customary prorogation by the Archbishop, by moving amendments on the address, and by presenting petitions complaining of certain difficulties and embarrassments under which they laboured as a body. The Archbishop of Canterbury found himself fairly outwitted; and from that time to this, every year his Grace is obliged, much against his will, to allow the "Lower House" to spend some few days in moving empty resolutions, appointing committees of inquiry, and discussing petitions. Empty resolutions, we say, because they are not recognised by the Crown, and are of no legal value.

Convocation, like Parliament, consists of an Upper and Lower House. The Bench of Bishops constitute the former, and the Archbishop of Canterbury presides over its assemblies. The Lower House consists of all the deans and archdeacons, together with two representatives or delegates, chosen from the parochial clergy of each archdeaconry, and two others from each cathedral chapter. The benefited and dignified clergy accordingly, it would seem, have more than their share in the representation; and the entire body, as at present constituted, is far from being of a popular character. The curates as a class—and they are a very numerous class—have no votes in the election of the parochial delegates. The Speaker of

the Lower House is called their "Prolocutor." He is chosen by a majority of votes, like the Speaker of the House of Commons. The present prolocutor is the Very Rev. George Peacock, D.D., Dean of Ely. The usual place of meeting for the Lower House is the Jerusalem Chamber, adjoining Westminster Abbey; the Prelates of the Upper House generally hold their sittings in the Bounty Office, Dean's Yard. The short account of recent proceedings in Convocation, which we prefix, will serve to show the reader what are the chief subjects of the deliberation of that august body in its two "Houses." He will notice that, just as is the case in the Imperial Legislature, the Lower House is the more vigorous and energetic in its proceedings. We ought to have added that in speaking of Convocation, all through these remarks, we have confined ourselves to a notice of the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury. The other province has a separate Convocation of its own, in theory at least, and assembles at York. It differs from its sister assembly in several points. Among others, we may mention that the Bishops and Clergy of York Convocation all sit in one House together; and that the inferior Clergy have never yet been able to persuade the hard heart of his Grace of York, to allow them to assemble, not even for a day or two's innocent debate. To all such entreaties, his Grace regularly and periodically returns the same short answer, simply stating "that he has received no orders from her Majesty commissioning him to convene the House for the transaction of business." Such being the case, the northern clergy are regularly cited to "meet and appear at our Cathedral Church of York" by his Grace, who then quietly bows them out again, and turns the key upon them, and to all their remonstrances he is most courteously obdurate. Archbishop Sumner is not the man to take such a summary and decided line with his clergy; but doubtless he cordially envies his northern brother the amount of trouble

which he spares himself by his steadiness of resolution.

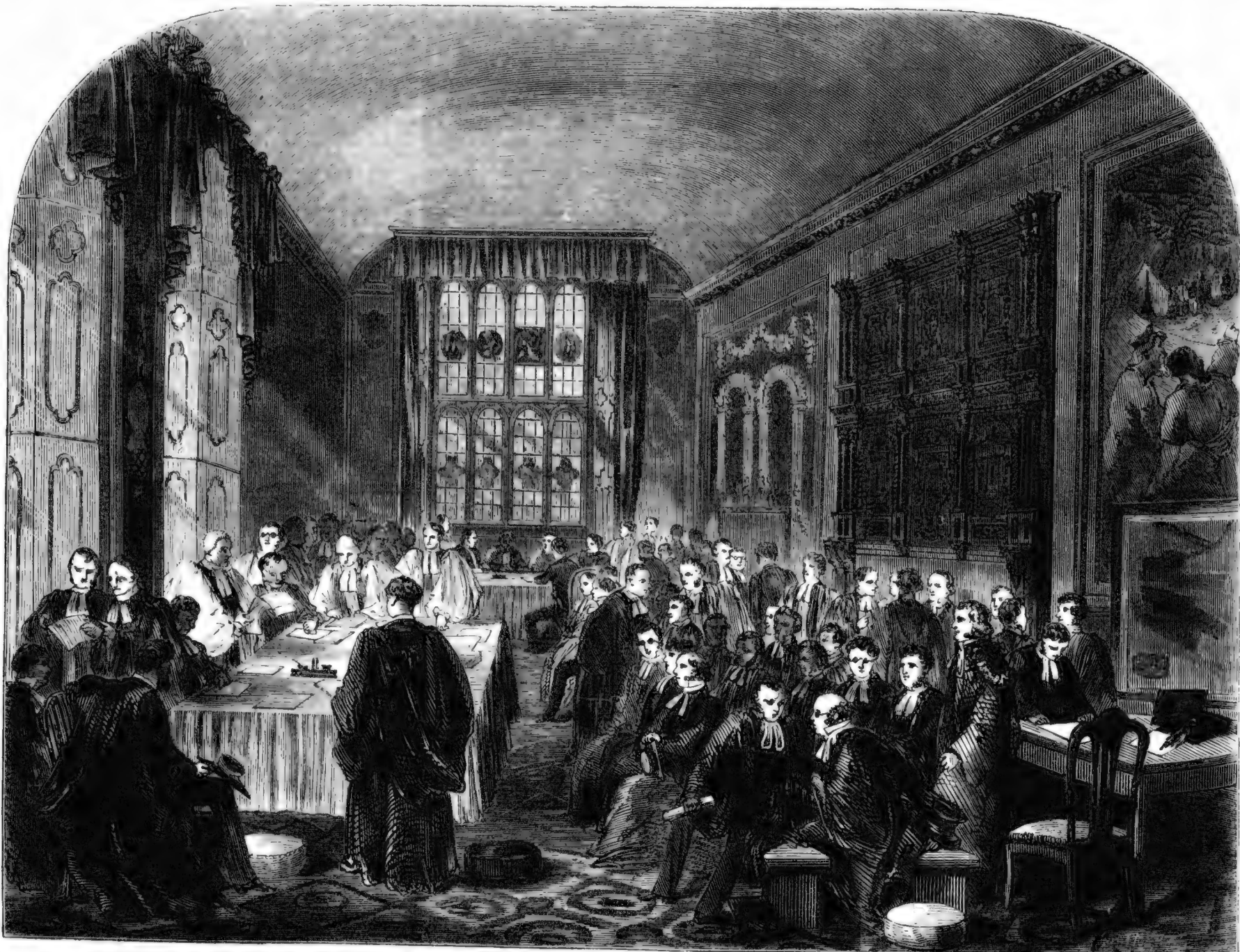
Curiously enough, in both Houses there is a majority opposed to the revival of the active powers of Convocation. Among the prelates who take the opposite view, are the Bishops of St. David's, Salisbury, Chichester, and Lincoln, and, of course, Dr. Phillpotts, of Exeter, and Dr. Wilberforce, of Oxford. Lord Palmerston's newly-appointed Bishops are all of the other way of thinking; and, we imagine, would be glad to see the doors of the Convocation House closed at once, and the tenants of the "Jerusalem Chamber" sent to Jerusalem. The Irish bishops and the Continental prelates—those "*Di Minori*"—as Sidney Smith used to call them—have no seat or voice in either House.

In the Lower House, the most active and strenuous members are such men as Mr. Mayow, Mr. Seymour, Mr. Keble, and the ever-bustling, stirring, restless Archdeacon Denison, who still, we observe, though stripped of his preferment as Vicar of East Brent, retains his anomalous position as a dignitary of the Established Church as Archdeacon of Taunton.

Convocation is always prorogued together with Parliament, and during the recess it stands regularly adjourned for a period of six weeks, from time to time. It is also dissolved at every dissolution of Parliament; so that very probably, in the course of the summer, we shall have to record some intensely severe contests for seats in that assembly between the Rev. the Vicar of Sleep-cum-Snoorley, and the Rector of Little Bumkinstead, as rival candidates against the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Fitznoodle, of Vanetown, and the Rev. Mr. Eatanswill, of Pigsbridge and Porkerville. If such should be the case, our readers may rest assured that our artist will be ready to go down, by special train, to the scene of action, and to send us up a faithful report, and life-like picture, of the animated and exciting event, which we will take an early opportunity of laying before them.



THE ALTAR OF ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH, PIMLICO.—(SEE PREVIOUS PAGE.)



MEETING OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF CONVOCATION IN THE JERUSALEM CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

THE festivities of Clumber have brought the Duke of Newcastle before the public in a new character; and assuredly few persons of the class to which he belongs could have exhibited themselves in a more amiable light than did the ex-Minister for War, when celebrating, in the company of his neighbours, tenants, and domestics, the coming of age of the heir to his honours and estates. We last week intimated our intention of giving a portrait of the Lord of Clumber, in connection with the festivities over which he has been presiding. We have now the satisfaction of presenting one to our readers.

According to the compilers of "Peerages," the Duke of Newcastle is a native of the English metropolis. He was born in 1811, in Charlotte Street, Berkeley Square, and baptised by the name of his ancestor, the celebrated Whig Minister, of whom some of the old Jacobites used to say, in allusion to the window-tax, "Henry Pelham loved darkness rather than light, his deeds being evil!" The heir of the Pelham-Clintons, however, was not nurtured in the political doctrines of the great connections of which his Pelham progenitors had been the acknowledged chiefs. The late Duke of Newcastle was one of those uncompromising Tories, who, deeming Sir R. Walpole's favourite maxim, "Quia non movetur," much too mild for the nineteenth century, insisted on the propriety of "leaving ill alone for fear of making it worse." This being the case, his son, the Earl of Lincoln—such was his title of courtesy—after being educated at Eton (where he founded the Newcastle scholarship), and at Christ Church, Oxford (where he graduated B.A.), and coming of age in 1832, when the Reform question agitated the public mind, was returned to the House of Commons as Member for South Notts, to aid the Duke of Wellington and Sir R. Peel in defending the institutions of the country against such daring demagogues and dangerous levellers as the late Earl Grey and the present Earl of Derby.

Considering the political influence exercised by his family, Lord Lincoln was in no danger of escaping the notice of the Tory leaders, or being exposed to that cold neglect, which embitters the spirit of some aspirants, and destroys the ambition of others. When, in December, 1834, Sir R. Peel's ill-fated Administration was formed, he commenced his official career as a Lord of the Treasury. He retained that post till the following April, when Lord J. Russell brought forward the "Appropriation Clause," and the first Peel Ministry ceased to exist.

This was certainly not a very auspicious opening for the political career of Lord Lincoln; but brighter days were in store for the party of which he was a member. We need not trace him through the years of what Mr. Disraeli once described as "that great Pharisaical confederacy, called the 'Conservative Opposition.'" It is sufficient to say, that he appears to have made his first speech on the 29th of July, 1835, while the House of Commons was discussing a bill for putting down corruption at elections; and that when, in 1841, Sir R. Peel returned to power, he became First Commissioner of Woods and Forests. He was destined, ere long, to figure in a more important capacity.

With all his political talent and administrative ability, Sir R. Peel, being flesh and blood, was not without failings, and, among others, was what might be called a hankering after *protégés* of wealth and rank. These not being gifted with genius like Burke, or brilliancy like Canning, his intellectual superiority was the more manifest, and their political homage the more secure. Among the disciples of the potent Minister, none worshiped him more than the Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests. "Lord Lincoln actually idolises Sir R. Peel," a colleague of the former is represented by the "Athenæum" to have said. Such devotion could not pass without reward; and in January, 1846, when the Prime Minister had resolved on

a Free Trade policy, and purged his ministry of the Protectionist element, Lord Lincoln was promoted to the post of Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.

The new Secretary soon discovered that in accepting promotion he had lost a constituency. Rejected at South Notts, he tried the other division of the county, and was equally unsuccessful in that quarter. At length the Falkirk district of Scottish Burghs returned him to Parliament, and he appeared in his place to advocate the Coercion Bill which the Ministers had prepared for the pacification of Ireland. Lord Lincoln's official position was far from enviable. Political opponents accused him of not being qualified for the post he had assumed. Many of our readers will remember the laugh raised by Lord G. Bentinck, when he alluded to the farce of making a man Secretary for Ireland who had shown himself totally unconscious of the existence of such a town as Castlebar; and the ridicule which Richard Sheil excited with his withering sarcasm about the



THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.—(FROM A RECENTLY-EXECUTED PHOTOGRAPH.)

new Secretary "having just come in a state of nature from the Woods and Forests." Lord Lincoln was soon, however, relieved from his thankless office. The Ministers were defeated on the Coercion Bill, and Lord Lincoln was under the necessity of resigning the office of Secretary for Ireland. Taking into account the circumstances of that unhappy country at the period, it was wonderful that a man who knew little of its condition should have accepted the arduous task he undertook to accomplish. Out-of-doors he was severely spoken of on the subject. "Lord Lincoln," remarked intelligent people, "has mistaken his career. One of his ancestors was a gentleman of the Bedchamber to Prince George of Denmark. No doubt the Noble Earl would do well enough for a similar place." Little did such grumblers foresee the high position which he was one day to occupy.

After the fall of Sir R. Peel in the month of July, 1846, circumstances were somewhat unfavourable to those who had been his political pupils; and for well nigh seven long years, the Earl of Lincoln shared their exclusion from office. For a short while about 1848, he appeared as nominal leader of the Peelites in the House of Commons, and, strangely enough, exercised no slight influence on the deliberations and proceedings of his associates, merely, we suppose, because he happened to be an aristocrat. In 1851, however, on the death of his father, the Earl of Lincoln succeeded to the Dukedom of Newcastle, and took his seat among the Peers of England.

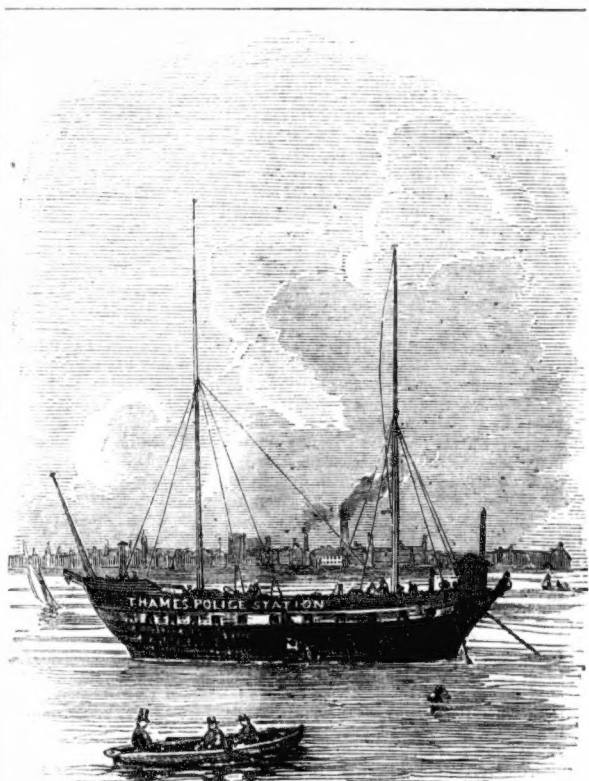
To the House of Lords—so at least runs the rumour—the Duke of Newcastle carried something a little more likely to advance his ambitious schemes than the experience he had acquired as a representative of the people. As if to atone for his part in the odious Coercion Bill, he had not only opposed Lord J. Russell's measure to repel Papal aggression, but declared in favour of the endowment of the Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland, and thus enlisted under his banner those adventurous politicians whom "the Green Isle" was then sending forth to prey upon the English Treasury. The result of all this was, that when, at the close of 1852, the Ministry of Lord Aberdeen was formed, the Duke of Newcastle found himself Secretary of State for the Colonies.

When war was declared against Russia, the Duke of Newcastle, according to the system which then existed, performed, as Colonial Secretary, the functions of Minister for War. When the aspect of affairs became so serious, however, that one man could not administer the affairs of the Colonies and the war, a fourth secretaryship was resolved on, and the Duke of Newcastle claimed the honour of having the post of responsibility, and carrying into execution the plans he had formed as to the management of the war. It must be admitted that this piece of vanity, on the part of the Duke, was to cost the country dear. But considering what human nature is, we do not blame him for wishing to serve his



* Position of Franklin's ships when last seen. A. Beechy Island, where traces of them were first found, and to which Captain Maclure travelled over the ice from Mercy Bay. The dotted line indicates Maclure's route.

B. Montreal Island, where, and at St. Ogle, remains of the Franklin Expedition have been discovered. C. The furthest point reached by Parry in 1819. The probable route of Franklin is indicated by the line from * to B.



CAPTAIN COOK'S DISCOVERY SHIP, THE "INVESTIGATOR," NOW USED AS A THAMES POLICE-STATION.

Sovereign and his country at a critical period. The responsibility would seem to rest with the Premier, who made the appointment to gratify a political adherent, and with the colleagues, who consented to it merely to keep the Cabinet together. Had any leader of Opposition possessed the gift of prophecy, he might well have exclaimed—

"Eheu, quantus equis, quantus adit virus
Sudor! Quanta moves funera Dardaneæ
Genti!"

Early in the summer of 1854 the Duke of Newcastle assumed the functions of War Minister, and, ere the opening of 1855, a cry was raised against the incapacity which had exposed our gallant soldiers in the Crimea to cold, nakedness, and hunger. When Parliament met, Mr. Roebuck, with characteristic patriotism, came forward on behalf of the public to insist upon an inquiry into the causes of our misfortunes; and the Duke, having defended himself with the spirit becoming a man who "had done his best to do his duty," resigned his office. In the autumn of the same year he paid a visit to the Crimea, and was there when the allied armies took possession of Sebastopol. A lively writer gives us a glimpse of an amusing scene in the interior of the captured city, wherein the Duke figures:—

"In the centre of a small knot of commercial Zouaves, outside the French barracks on the Woronzow Road, there was seen, a few days ago, no less distinguished a purchaser than the Duke of Newcastle, who was bargaining for some Russian trophies with a closeness that would have done credit to the economic instinct of Lord Aberdeen. The Gauls chaffed his Grace with a freedom which showed how little they suspected that their customer was no less a personage than the British ancient Ministre de la guerre, frequently displaying their sympathy with the Duke's linguistic difficulties, by assuring him that he was a *bono Impieque* notwithstanding."

Since returning to England, the Duke of Newcastle has taken no prominent part in the business of the House of Lords. We dare say he has had enough of politics and unpopularity for some time to come. Indeed, it would seem that the Duke is more at home among the cedars of Clumber than in that gorgeous chamber where the Peers of England assemble; and that he appears to less advantage when attempting the part of a Chatham, than when proving himself a worthy provincial magnate, a good neighbour, a considerate landlord, and a kind, indulgent master.

THE NORTH-WEST PASSAGE.

We have before us a letter, addressed by Lady Franklin to Lord Palmerston, in which she expresses a hope that a final effort will be made to ascertain the fate and recover the remains of her husband's expedition. The letter, not originally intended for the public eye, has been published, by permission, in the hope of engaging such a degree of sympathy on the subject as may come in aid of favourable dispositions on the part of Government.

Lady Franklin reminds Lord Palmerston of a memorial presented to him, with this object, early in June last, and signed by all the leading men of science then in London. It appears, further, that in the month of July, the Lords of the Admiralty caused inquiries to be made as to the possibility of equipping a ship at that advanced season in time for effective operations in the field of search. It was pronounced too late, and the subject was dismissed for the season. Lady Franklin thereupon addressed a letter to the Board, showing, by this unfortunate delay, she had lost the opportunity of sending out a vessel at her own cost.

"But," now writes her Ladyship, "as nothing has occurred within the last few months to weaken the reasons which induced the Admiralty, early in July last, to contemplate another final effort, and as they put it aside at that time on the sole ground that it was too late to equip a vessel for that season, I trust it will be felt that I am not endeavouring to re-open a closed question, but merely to obtain the settlement of one which has not ceased to be, and is even now, under favourable consideration. I have cherished the hope, in common with others, that we are not waiting in vain. Should, however, that decision unfortunately throw me upon the responsibility and the cost of sending out a vessel myself, I beg to assure your Lordship that I shall not shrink, either from that weighty responsibility, or from the sacrifice of my entire available fortune for the purpose, supported as I am in my convictions by such high authorities as those whose opinions are on record in your Lordship's hands, and by the hearty sympathy of many more. But before I take upon myself so heavy an obligation, it is my bounden duty to entreat her Majesty's Government not to disregard the arguments which have led so many competent and honourable men to feel that our country's honour is not satisfied, whilst a mystery which has excited the sympathy of the civilised world remains unexplained. This final and exhausting search is all I seek in behalf of the first and only martyrs to Arctic discovery in modern times, and it is all I ever intend to ask."

While such is the state of matters, and this interesting subject is before the public, we will devote a few lines to the consideration of the claims of Sir John Franklin's party to the credit of having made the North-West Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Sir Robert Maclure passed Behring Strait, with the *Investigator*, in search of the Franklin Expedition, at the end of July, 1850. Steering thence to the northward and the eastward he rounded Cape Bathurst on the last day of August, and then proceeded up Prince of Wales Strait. Finding, however, that an impenetrable barrier of ice prevented his advancing any further to the eastward, he resolved to spend his first winter at the head of that Strait. The following year he retraced his course as far as Lord Nelson Head, from which point he navigated a narrow strip of open water on the west and north of Baring Island, where, being again hindered by the ice, he took refuge in Mercy Bay. Here he was detained, unable to move backward or forward, during the winters of 1851 and 1852, and being at length compelled to abandon his ship, he travelled over the ice to Beechey Island, whence he sailed for England in her Majesty's ship *Phoenix*. In this manner did Maclure make the North-West Passage, or, more strictly speaking, the North-East Passage, between the two oceans.

Franklin's ships were last seen on the 26th of July, 1845, in lat. 74 deg. 48m. north, and lon. 66 deg. 13m. west, moored to an iceberg, awaiting a break in the middle ice to enable them to cross over to Lancaster Sound. The next traces of them were found upon Beechey Island and on the mainland of North Devon, where their crews are supposed to have wintered in 1845. From incontestable information obtained by Dr. Rae from the Esquimaux, it appears that some of the party had reached, in the spring of 1850, probably by Peel Sound and Victoria Strait, the embouchure of the Great Fish River. Now the space between the head of the Great Fish River and Behring Strait had been previously explored by Dease and Simpson in 1837. As soon, therefore, as the Franklin expedition reached the estuary of the Great Fish River, they had made the North-West Passage, having thus forged the last link which was required to connect former discoveries from eastward and westward.

And now to compare the respective merits of these two cases. Maclure's passage was made in 1853, Franklin's in 1850; the latter, therefore, was made prior to the former. Maclure travelled over the ice by a route which the experience of all Arctic voyagers, from Parry down to the present time, proves to be impracticable to ships. Amongst the *debris* of the Franklin expedition found on Montreal Island is reported a large boat. Does not this speak of the ships to which the boat belonged being near at hand? Or if objectors are unwilling to concede so much, must not this boat have been *wrecked* to the point where it was found? By either contingency, the credit of having made the North-West Passage by water must be given to the Franklin expedition.

This fact does not at all tarnish Maclure's reputation. No one can have read the record of that Gallant Officer's voyage without testifying to the heroic conduct he displayed and his manful perseverance under difficulties the most disheartening. The only point for which we contend is, what indeed Maclure, in his narrative, edited by Sherard Osborne, has admitted, that the first discovery of the North-West Passage was made (most probably by water, and not over the ice) by the survivors of the crews of the *Erebus* and *Terror*.

We observe that measures are being taken in Lincolnshire to raise funds for a memorial to the late Sir John Franklin at Lincoln, his native county town. Under such circumstances it is generally desirable that everything that may contribute to the honour and glory of the person so to be distinguished should be accurately made out.

CORNER FOR THE CURIOUS.—NO. XXIII.

CAPTAIN COOK'S DISCOVERY SHIP INVESTIGATOR.

THERE are few English names more famous than that which is connected with the battered old hulk shown in the engraving at the foot of the previous page. Like Stephenson, Cobbett, and a host of others who have been useful to their country, Captain Cook was of humble origin, his father being, at the time of his birth (October 27, 1728), a farm labourer at Marton, in Cleveland, four miles from Great Ayton, in Yorkshire. When the young navigator was two years old, his father removed to Great Ayton, and undertook the office of a "hind," or manager of a farm; and up to his thirteenth year young Cook assisted his father in various duties relating thereto. He was then sent to school, and in 1745, the year of the great rebellion, was bound apprentice to William Saunderson, a draper at a place called Snaith, on the Yorkshire coast, about ten miles from Whitby. The numerous ships which passed by seem to have had greater attractions for young Cook than the yard measure; and, ere long, the indentures were cancelled by mutual agreement, when the youth made his first voyage on board the *True Love*, a vessel of 450 tons burden, engaged in the coal trade. It would seem that shortly afterwards he attracted the notice of Mr. Walker, the owner, who, in 1748, sent him to assist in the rigging out of a fine new ship of about 600 tons burden, called the *Three Brothers*, thinking that this work would improve the lad in his profession. When the ship was fit for sea, Cook made several coasting voyages on board of her, and finally went to Norway and Ireland.

In 1750 he was shipped as a seaman on board the *Maria*, of Whitby, and in that vessel traded to the Baltic. In 1753 he was made a mate of one of Mr. Walker's vessels, called the *Friendship*, of which his employer eventually offered him the command. He, however, declined it, and entered on board his Majesty's frigate *Endeavour*, of 28 or 30 guns, and was engaged in most of the stirring scenes that were then transpiring in North America. Notwithstanding the duties he now had to perform, Cook found time to read Euclid, and supply the deficiencies of his very imperfect education. At the siege of Quebec despatches of the greatest consequence were entrusted to him to deliver, and so well did he perform his task, that, on the recommendation of Lord Colville, he was appointed to make a survey of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the coasts of Newfoundland in the *Investigator*. After being, in 1760, raised to the rank of lieutenant he was sent with Sir Joseph Banks and others to the South Seas to observe the transit of the planet Venus over the sun's disc. For the purpose of this voyage, a cutter, called the *Endeavour*, was selected, and of this ship Cook was promoted to be captain, whereupon he hoisted his pennant, and set sail to the island of Otaheite, or Tahiti, according to the more modern vernacular.

Perhaps no science ever received greater accessions from the labour of a single individual, than geography has done from those of Captain Cook, who on his first voyage to the South Seas discovered the Society Islands—determined the insularity of New Zealand—discovered the Straits which are called after his name—made a complete survey of these, and afterwards explored the coast of New Holland (then unknown) 2,000 miles. On his second expedition, he solved the great problem of a southern continent, having traversed the hemisphere in such a manner as not to leave the possibility of its existence in question, except near the pole. During his voyage he discovered New Caledonia, the Island of Georgia, and an unknown coast which he called Sandwich Land; and having twice visited the tropical seas, he settled the situation of various old discoveries, at the same time that he made several new ones.

On his last and fatal voyage he explored unknown parts of America—defined the relative positions of Asia and America—and discovered the Sandwich Islands.

Captain Cook at the time of his violent death left behind him several children; to each of these the king granted an annuity of £25, and to his widow £300 a year. It is stated that Captain Cook stood godfather to his wife, and in jest observed at the time, that he would wait and marry her—a promise which in the course of years he fulfilled.

The vessel shown in the engraving, the one in which Cook made his discoveries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and on the coast of Newfoundland, will have been noticed by most persons who have journeyed from Westminster to London Bridge, lying a "sheer hulk," off Somerset House, strip of its masts and otherwise disfigured. After years of service, it was dismantled and converted into a Thames Police Station; but becoming too rotten a craft even for that purpose, it has, we believe, been recently broken up and replaced by another vessel, of larger size, but of less historical interest.

LAW AND CRIME.

ON Tuesday last, in the House of Lords, Lord Brougham brought in a bill, which, although apparently unpretentious in its object, will be the means of an incalculable amount of benefit, direct and consequential. It is simply a bill to check actions by insolvent plaintiffs. As the law now stands, a bankrupt or insolvent person may commence proceedings against any respectable individual for a pretended or fictitious cause of action, and drive him to the expense of a defence without the shadow of his recovering a fraction of his costs, should the plaintiff be defeated. An instance was mentioned by his Lordship of a case in which an action had been brought by a penniless speculator against a merchant, and on the trial the plaintiff's counsel, after maligning in his opening speech the character of the defendant, coolly announced that he had no evidence to offer in support of his accusations, and was nonsuited. Defendant's counsel was thus deprived of the opportunity of answering or disproving the charges against his client, all which were duly recorded in the papers, against which, for giving a true report of judicial proceedings, no action for libel would lie. Such an action might have been stopped in its commencement, had the plaintiff been compelled to give security for costs in the event of his not succeeding; and this is the remedy proposed by the new bill. The effect of the enactment, if passed, will be almost instantaneous upon the order of disreputable attorneys, and their ragged bandit-gang of touts. By depriving them of the power of carrying on groundless and frivolous actions, in order to extort money from timid defendants, one half of their means of existence will be at once snatched away. But whether this will tend to exterminate them, to lessen their numbers, or only to render them less dangerous, but more needy, more voracious and more desperate, remains yet to be seen. However, it will certainly draw the fangs by which they have been accustomed to seize upon the honest and unprotected stranger. Henceforth the victims of their villanies will be only the silly people who may be induced to employ them.

The "Western Times" comments upon the following case of legal cruelty—A child of nine years of age was taken into custody in Torquay for throwing stones, and, having been convicted by the provincial magistrates, was by them fined 1s. 6d., and 3s. 6d. costs. As the poor child had not five shillings' worth of property to satisfy a levy, he was committed to prison for ten days. The father is a working man, having a family of nine children. The severity of the sentence defeats its own object, for the governor of the jail, finding the little boy well-behaved and tractable, treats him as one of his family. A very respectful letter from the parent, signing himself "R. Treby, cabinet-maker, 2, Melville-street, the father of the child, and he never had anything against his character," has been addressed hereon to the editor of the "Western Times," who has personally inquired into the case, and elicited the facts above related.

The case of the committal of two labourers who left their work to see a review in Essex, and who were sentenced to imprisonment by the Rev. George Hemming, of Little Parndon, may probably be still remembered by our readers. That worthy divine yet exercises his power in that amiable manner for which that transaction rendered his name famous. A man named Charles Attwood, aged sixty, with a wife and eleven children, having had a dispute with his employer, quitted his employ, and, being brought before the reverend messenger of mercy, was sentenced to twenty-one days' imprisonment, with hard labour. It is added, that a son of this same Charles Attwood was in the service of Mr. Hemming, and one Sunday paid a visit to London, unhappily missing the train by which he intended to return. For this a warrant has been obtained against him by the Reverend George, and the youth is now away from home to avoid imprisonment. A petition on the subject has been presented to the House

of Commons by Mr. Russell Palmer. The "Times" has a leading article on the matter, concluding by demanding "Is that Rev. Gentleman quite the person to remain in the commission of the peace?" and the "Rev. Gentleman," who evidently conceives that he is, has addressed to that paper a letter in reply. He does not deny the facts, and attempts to extenuate, rather than to justify, his conduct. One of the grounds alleged for the continuance of his severity against the son, is, that the father had petitioned Parliament! This little ventilation has produced a letter from a Grand Jurymen, detailing a case in which this same clerical magistrate committed a man to prison (where he remained for forty days during the sessions) to take his trial for stealing six cabbages. There is a curious old legal rule which exempts butchers from being jurymen in cases of life and death, on account of the supposed cruelty of their avocation. Ought not the clergy to be exempted from magisterial offices for the reason, whatever that may be, that renders them usually the severest and least sympathetic of judges? Such a rule might, perhaps, not be derogatory to the clergy, and would certainly save it many an opportunity of falling into disrespect. It may be, indeed, that the peculiar strictness and moral irreproachability of the life of a clergyman unfit him for those allowances for the weakness of erring humanity, which mere laymen usually know how to make.

Mr. Chute, the lessee of the Bath Theatre, kindly invited the pauper children to a morning representation of a pantomime. The Chairman of the board of guardians consented, subject to the approval of his colleagues. The children were already on their way, and near the theatre, when the Board, by a majority of one, refused to confirm the permission, and an order was despatched at once to countermand it. Truly, a pleasant and kindly morning's work for a majority of one, to change, by such a pantomime trick, the joyous anticipations of a troop of happy children into disappointment, wailings, and lamentations.

Mr. Alexander Gordon John Bishop, described as a clerk in holy orders, being imprisoned for debt, filed his petition at the Insolvent Court, and attended at the hearing, under the charge of an officer. His case was adjourned, and on his way back to prison he quitted the officer under pretence of obtaining a cigar. The officer, having other prisoners under his charge, could not pursue, and the insolvent was not found until night, when he was found in bad company and inebriated. Upon the next hearing, the Commissioner took time to consider whether these facts constituted an "escape;" and being afterwards of opinion that they did, the insolvent's petition was dismissed—the act providing only for cases of untempered imprisonment.

From correspondence in the "Times," it appears that the servant-employing classes consider that they have cause to complain of the practice among certain masters and mistresses, of extenuating or suppressing, in giving "characters," the faults of discharged servants. There is a phase of this matter, however, upon which the writers do not appear to have touched, namely, the frequent refusal by a master or mistress to give a servant the necessary recommendation, even when deserved, and, what is not uncommon, the wilful maligning of a servant by a spiteful employer. It is not a little singular that the law practically affords no remedy to a servant who may be deprived of the means of obtaining an honest living by deliberate misrepresentation of this kind. Slander and libel are specially exempted from the jurisdiction of the County Courts, and it is of course absurd to refer a servant out of place to Westminster Hall.

On Friday, the 6th inst., a lad, aged 19, was tried at the Central Criminal Court, before Mr. Baron Bramwell, for an atrocious assault upon the prosecutor, a boy of 15, and upon his sole testimony. The jury, after considering their verdict, returned one of Guilty, and the Learned Baron ordered sentence of death to be recorded; but, nevertheless, feeling doubtful as to the guilt of the prisoner, directed an officer to go with the prosecutor to make certain inquiries as to the truth of some of his statements. The officer left accordingly, but soon returned. The prosecutor, finding further deception useless, acknowledged that he had not told the truth. Thus, but for the Judge's prudence and kindness, the unhappy prisoner might have added another to the list of victims of Old Bailey fallibility.

THE MURDERS IN WALWORTH.

THOMAS FULLER BACON and Martha, his wife, were again brought up for examination on Wednesday. Mr. W. Harris, the surgeon at Horsmonger Lane Jail, said he believed Mrs. Bacon to be of unsound mind. The mark on her neck was such as might have been produced by the cord found in Bacon's garden by Inspector Young. The cuts upon her throat he believed to have been inflicted by herself, but they might have been caused by somebody else; but if so, he must have been very careful not to have killed her. If anybody else had done it, witness thought it must have been by her connivance.

Three men in the employ of Mr. Malledege, an ironmonger, of Reigate, deposed that when Bacon came to work there on the Monday after Christmas Day, his manner was very singular. He did little or no work that day, threw his tools about, and would stand as if in study for a quarter of an hour at a time. He wore a pair of tustain trousers and an apron.

William Payne, the husband of Bacon's aunt, deposed that when he saw the cut on Bacon's finger, he told him that he thought it had been done in sharpening a knife on a steel. (Dr. Bushell, who examined the knife, said by Mrs. Bacon to have been used in killing the children, gave it his opinion that it had recently been sharpened on a steel.) Bacon, said, however, that it had been done in cutting some meat. Witness told the prisoner that the guilt lay between him and his wife, for that no one would break into the house and murder the children without carrying away the money that was there. It was two or three days after this that Bacon declared he had been robbed; witness believed that statement to be false. The watch which Bacon said had been stolen, and which had been picked up by the police, witness saw in his possession after the murder. When the prisoner went to witness's house the night before the murder, he seemed very much confused. Witness remarked to Mrs. Bacon, "I wonder how you can leave those little children," and in a little time she replied, "Uncle, you have no cause to be put out about the children; they are happy." The last time witness spoke to him, he (witness) said, "Suppose your wife turns round to-morrow and says, you have done it?" He looked very hard at witness, and then said, "My wife never did deceive me yet."

Mrs. Payne corroborated much of this evidence. The prisoners were again remanded.

EXHUMATION OF BACON'S MOTHER.

The body of Mrs. Bacon, mother of Thomas Fuller Bacon, charged with the murder of his children, was exhumed last week, and an inquest opened. The viscera were removed from the body by Professor Taylor, for examination. After which, Mary Scholes, a washerwoman, who attended the deceased at the time of her death, deposed that Mrs. Bacon told her that she had been taken suddenly ill after taking some broth at her son Thomas's—ill with sickness and purging. Deceased was thirsty during the night, and had a feeling of stiffness all over. She was at times delirious. Her son Thomas was in the house when she died, as also were William Bacon (a brother of the prisoner's), and his wife. There was a little dispute between the two brothers about deceased's rent-book. This took place while the mother was dying. This witness (Mrs. Scholes) "bushed" them, and said their mother could hear, if she could not speak. Thomas had taken the rent-book out of the house. "I heard William Bacon's wife tell Thomas that his mother had made a will. Thomas told me that his brothers had had their fortune. He did not know that his mother had made a widow's will, and seemed quite surprised that she had done so. He told me he expected he should get the property at his mother's death."

Elizabeth Blake, who also attended deceased, said she observed that her hands were continually "twitching," and that after this, she began to "twitch" all over. Deceased said she felt as if paralysed from head to foot. Witness added—"Mrs. Bacon told me she went to dine with her son Thomas on the Sunday, and that she had scarcely done dinner when she was taken ill. Two or three times during the night that I slept with her, deceased clasped her hands together, and appeared strongly convulsed."

William Mayes Hibbins said—I was formerly an apprentice to Thomas Fuller Bacon. About a week before Mrs. Bacon died, Bacon told me to go to the shop of Mr. Wilford, druggist, for sixpennyworth of arsenic. He said, "If they ask you what it is for, you must tell them it is for hardening iron." Mr. Wilford's assistant said I could not have the poison without a witness. Upon this I went back to the workshop, where I found Bacon standing against a vice, as I had left him. He said, "Where is it?" I told him they would not let me have it without a witness. He laughed it off, and said, "Oh, never mind; I'll get it myself." It is not a common thing to use arsenic for hardening iron. We never used anything but prussiate of potash.

Mr. George Patterson, druggist, of Stamford, proved that on the 8th of May, 1855, Thomas Fuller Bacon purchased an ounce of arsenic, stating that he wanted it for the purpose of killing rats.

The inquest was then adjourned, to await Professor Taylor's report upon his analysis. Mrs. Bacon has, it is said, actually acknowledged that, on the day her mother-in-law died with it, she, by direction of her husband, mixed arsenic with the old woman's broth; and further, she said that afterwards her husband mixed more of the same poison with her medicine, before handing it to his mother, and this mixture she also drank.

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